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NSIDE THE TABLOID:

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COMMENT

TUESDAY 8 APRIL 1997 IN THE TABLOID:



"It's not what I'm about. I'm loses 75 per cent of his major-

some things in life that you don't as a poll in yesterday's Man-

ity he'll still get in."

Mr Ashlan's comments came

that although the majority of

Conservative voters believed

the former trade minister should

stand down, Mr Hamilton would

win the seat with a reduced ma-

Mr Bell's arrival apparently

wrecked plans by councillor

Tony Martin, one of the few

members of the Tatton Con-

servative Association to speak

out for a secret ballot on Mr

Hamilton's candidature. He

said Mr Bell's intervention

would mean that there was

MP's reselection.

now only token resistance to the

jority if he toughed it out.

a hack, like you," he told reporters, adding: "There are

you like having done. I think it

might turn out to be one of

The electorate in true-blue

Tatton is not used to uncer-

tainties, but they appeared confused as to Mr Bell's role, and

undecided as to how they would

whichever candidate they sup-

ported, both Mr Hamilton's

supporters and detractors felt

that without the conclusions of

the Downey Report, they were

unable to make their decision

Jill Bradbury, of Knutsford and District Animal Trust, who

had voted for Mr Hamilton in

previous elections, said that

the persisting sleaze allegations

meant they had heard little

about policies. "We haven't

had enough information about anybody. If the Downey report

had come out at least we would

have known where we stood

based on the "true facts".

What was clear was that

vote yesterday.

National gesture of defiance \dots but a sombre horse race

Kathy Marks and lan Burrell

The 150th Grand National went ahead at Aintree yesterday, 48. hours late, two horses short and with one vital element of the world's greatest steeplechase missing: the buzz.

Monday afternoon, a time of day more often associated with children's television, was never going to attract the 70,000strong crowd who attended the postponed race on Saturday.

But in a gesture of defiance to the IRA, a larger than expected turnout of more than 20,000, including the Prime Minister, arrived at Aintree to watch Lord Gyllene cruise

home at 14-1. The course was swamped by more than 500 police officers and 300 security guards. Cars were banned and racegoers given bodysearches at the turnstiles. Police even checked the paddock railings with mine detectors. The "spirit of the blitz" atmosphere was given added poignancy by the presence before the race of the Gurkhas'

military band. After arriving unexpectedly by helicopter, John Major sand: | ten in Elic "The whole of the British nation. and people around the world wish to see this race run and wish to indicate to people you cannot stop a great national sporting institution like the

British Grand National. "I think the message to the IRA is you cannot bomb the British out of British National Institutions. You cannot bomb Britain out of Northern Ireland. And you cannot bomb Northern Ireland out of the UK."

Earlier, the Princess Royal had been driven onto the course to cheers from the stands. But the usual carnival atmosphere of National day was missing, replaced by a sombre mood among crowds watched constantly by security staff. Police asked people to cast a suspicious eve over the punter standing next to them as part of a poli-

cy of "continuous search" Bookmakers said they had never known a National like it. "Come on, let's have a bit of jollity," William Price, one of a small number of bookies, implored punters. Peter O'Sullevan, commentating on the race for his 50th and final time, said: "It is less charismatic. A certain amount of drama always associated with it has been dissipated by this painful interim."

The crowd was allowed in free and many present were more interested in showing soliderity against the terrorists than in backing the winner.
We came back to prove a point," said Chris Stock of Mac-desfield. "It's part of the British

resolve not to be intimidated." The only major scare came four hours before the 5pm start of the race, when a suspect package was found and de-

stroyed in the County Stand.
The gallows humour meant that there was heavy backing for Go Ballistic, one of the most functed borses. In the event, it

was not even placed. National reports, Sport

QUICKLY

Netanyahu unmoved Middle East peace hopes reeeded with a speech in Washington by Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, in which be vowed to continue with his settlements policy. Page 14

Pop wedding Oasis star Liam Gallagher and Patsy Kensit married in a secret



Flying end: Philip Hide coming off Spuffington as he jumps Becher's Brook during the 150th Grand National at Aintree yesterday. The race was won by Lord Gyllene

soap opera election?

Anthony Bevins and Jojo Moyes

political soap opera yesterday as, amid the most bizarre scenes witnessed in a general election campaign for decades, the ver-eran BBC foreign correspondent Martin Bell defied the former Tory minister Neil Hamilton to stand down.

Mr Bell was given a political baptism of fire at a London press conference where, thoroughly mauled by media colleagues, he nervously bared his soul and his private life, and announced his willingness to stand on an "anti-sleaze" ticket against Mr Hamilton - the man at the centre of the Commons

cash-for-questions affair Soon afterwards, Mr Hamilton emerged from his constituency home. A statement was delivered by his wife, and Bill Roache, the Coronation Street actor, who is a friend of

the couple Mr Bell told his London press conference that he was as non-political as anyone confe be: he had had meetings with the Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates for Tatton, and their parties, but was in nobody's pocket. If Mr Hamilton did not stand, nobody would be more pleased, but if he beat Mr Hamilton for the seat, he was prepared to serve as MP for the full five-year parliamentary

He said: "I have been aware of the deep unhappiness of the



Screen guest: Coronation Street actor Bill Roache (left) with Neil and Christine Hamilton who had invited him for lunch at their home in Cheshire Photograph: Reuters

INSIDE

* THE INDEPENDENT election'97

Leading article, page 17; Time for change says senior Tory, page 17; Polly Toynbee, page 19; Election countdown, pages 8-11

tic system which means the democratic system is not able to

But the Hamiltons accuse Mr Bell of being the "anti-fair play" candidate and a "stooge" of Peter Mandelson, Labour's campaign manager. Mis Hamilton said: "If you think we are going to chicken out, three-and-a-half weeks before polling day,

vou are all mad." In his statement, Mr Hamil-ton said: "Mr Bell knows I people there. It's as if there's a have strenuously denied any alkind of poison in the democra-legation of corruption. I believe

the Downey inquiry will clear me of this charge.

"We know nothing of Mr Bell's opinions, save one - he is against the basid principle of British justice, that a man is innocent unless proven guilty. He condemns me without seeing the evidence."

Mr Bell said: "I believe there is a deep disquiet in the public at large about our standards of conduct in public life. It is in everybody's interest that we sort this out. I believe the

Having explained in intimate detail the 48 hours it took to accept the principle that he might stand - before embarking on a clandestine visit to the constituency on Sunday - Mr Bell suggested that he could not have lived with himself if he had ducked the challenge.

"I could think of lots and lots of reasons for saying this is none of my business, in the same way that I can think of lots and lots of reasons for not testifying to the war crimes tribunal in The

with Hamilton." She was unclear as to what Martin Bell was actually standing for, in terms of policies, but felt, as did many others, that the strength of his personality might make for a good result among a local population "sick" that Mr Hamilton hadn't resigned. Omar Ashlan of the Knutsford Picture Shop said he

would vote Conservative as always, because his vote was cast "for the party rather than the person". He said: "I don't know if Hamilton is guilty or not. But

Widnes, over three Londonbased choices. In St Helens, John Evans is to be replaced by Dave Watts, the MP's agent and the local

The final selection for a replacement for Geoffrey Lofthouse, member for Pontefract and Castleford, was taking place last night.

A spokesman for the Labour Party said he understood the two selections would be made in the same way.

A spokesman for Mr Mandelson said he did not comment on such allegations.

Labour unseats its old guard

Political Correspondent

Tony Blair's campaign managers have launched an initiative to lever veteran MPs out of their seats to make way for

favoured newcomers. Pressure has been brought on the MPs to go, with some being offered seats in the House of Lords. Since the election was called three weeks ago, six Labour MPs have resigned, all of them in safe seats. Last night others said they had been asked

to leave but had refused. Ray Powell, a former Labour whip, said he had been asked to give up his Weish seat but was determined to stay on.

the party's campaign organiser, of masterminding the exercise.

Mr Powell, 67 who has represented Ogmore since 1979, said the party leadership used go-betweens to persuade people; to go. In his case, Ron Davies, the shallow Welsh sec-

retary, and Don Dixon, the MP for Jarrow, had both been unsuccessful, he said.

They say, if am able to advise you that you can go across to the Lords and in all probability you will get a job, something to do in a Labour

"It isn't my intention to give up now. I have always said I wanted to stay on

"Peter Mandelson will keep on the pressure to see if he can get everybody he wants in and all that he doesn't want out."

Another MP, who did not want to be named, said he also

had been approached. "I was asked, would I consider doing an important job for the party after the election, provided Labour won," he said. Although one or two members usually announce their retirements after a general election has been called, it is be-

many decided to do so. Three seats, Cumbernauld and Kilsyth, St Helens South and Warrington South, have

were asked to send CVs to Hoyle resigned. They chose party headquarters within three Helen Jones, a solicitor from days of the resignations. Shortlists were drawn up by a panel of the National Executive Committee. Local members were then allowed to vote in one-

member-one-vote ballots. The Labour candidate for Cumbernauld will be Rosemary McKenna, a former president of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and a member of The Network, a lieved that never before have so strongly Blairite group which is based in Scotland. She replaces Norman Hogg.

In Warrington South, local members were angry that at least two popular choices were

THE BROADSHEET Business & City20-24 Comment17-19

houm available in 18ct; yellom gold priced £10,439, white gold £11,140 and platinum £17,890.

significant shorts

British Jews appeal to Swiss for justice over Nazi gold

British Jews yesterday appealed to Swiss business leaders to do all in their power to ensure that truth, justice and solidarity emerge in the inquiry into looted Nazi gold.

Greville Janner, Labour MP and chairman of the Holocaust

Greville Jamer, Labour Mr and Chairman of the Protocaust Educational Trust, told a meeting of the British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Zurich that the 1946 post-war gold agreement must be renegotiated. An estimated £3bn, at today's prices, of looted gold from Nazi Germany was paid into Swiss banks during the Second World War. But under the Washington Agreement with Britain, the United States and France, Switzerland paid back less

than half the total gold assets held.

"I hope that in the interests of solidarity and justice, the Swiss government will agree to that renegotiation," Mr Janner said.

Switzerland, which has suffered a powerful international backlash, has bowed to pressure and announced plans for a commission of experts to investigate the country's wartime dealings with Nazi Germany. New legislation will temporarily lift Swiss banks' secrecy laws so that the issue can be finally cleared up.

Scottish police to test CS spray

Two Scottish police forces are to test CS sprays in response to an increase in the number of assaults on officers, it was announced

Officers in Strathclyde and Tayside will test the sprays which have already been on trial in England and Wales, the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (Acpos) said. William Spence, president of Acpos and Chief Constable of Tayside, told a press conference in Edinburgh that more than 10,000 Scottish officers were assaulted in 1995-1996, which resulted

in 2,600 days being lost through sickness.

"Although crime has been declining, the number of incidents of assaults on police officers has been increasing," he said. The pilot scheme is expected to be underway by October and to be concluded by next spring, and will involve around 200 officers in Strathclyde and 90 in Dundee. The two forces were chosen because they had the worst records for assaults among Scottish police.

Man charged with teenager's death



Detectives hunting the killer of teenager Louise Smith have charged a 21-year-old man with

her murder. The unnamed man, from the Yate area of Bristol, lives just 400 yards from the disused Barnhill quarry where the 18-year-old's naked and decomposed body was found on 17 February last year. Louise, from nearby Chipping Sodbury, was last seen early on Christmas morning 1995, apparently walking home alone from a disco. Avon and

Somerset police said the man, whom they did not name, would appear before North Avon magistrates this morning.

Warning over paedophile index

The planned publication of a book giving details about convicted sex offenders in the United Kingdom has been condemned as

being likely to encourage a growing trend towards vigilantism.

A New Zealand journalist, Deborah Coddington, intends to publish a British index of paedophiles in October, similar to directories she has brought out in her home country and in Australia. She declared it was time to stop treating the perpetrators of such crimes as victims and called on the public to menitor the activities of paedophiles once they had been released from prison.

But John Scott, of the Scottish Council for Civil Liberties, warned the book could encourage people to take the law into their own hands. He told BBC Scotland's Frontline programme, to be broadcast tonight, that if people had such information they might decide "well. I'm just going to go round and pay a visit to this sex offender".

Killer refused right to attend birth

A convicted killer lost a court bid yesterday to be at the birth of his child next week. James Kelly's application for judicial review was dismissed in the High court in Belfast. Kelly, 29, of Londonderry, is serving life for murder in Maghaberry Prison, near Lisburn, Co Antrim. His child was conceived during an "inter-institutional" visit to his wife Denise who is also serving a prison sentence, for robbery.

Welsh Water fined £8,000

Welsh Water was fined £8,000 with £3,000 costs yesterday after admitting supplying water unfit for human consumption to part of Swansea. The city's magistrates heard that strongly-alkaline, unpleasant-tasting water from a disused mains pipe entered the tap supply for 300 homes in the Parc Gwern Fadog area. A faulty valve was probably to blame, and the water had been contaminated by chemicals leaching out of the lining of the old pipe. The only casualty of the leak, Welsh Water said, was a goldfish.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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people



Patsy Kensit and Liam Gallagher: Low-key celebration (Photograph: Crispin Rodwell)

Wedding vows at dawn as Patsy and Liam fool media

he celebrity wedding of the year finally happened yesterday when the enfant temble of rock'n'roll, Liam Gallagher of Oasis, married the actress Patsy Kensit at Westminster register office.

But the simple ceremony in central London at 8.30 yesterday morning was missing the glitz and glamour expected of such a show business union. Llam, 24, and Patsy, 29, did not invite any friends or family to

the ceremony, Oasis's record company said.

Nor will there be a party or honeymoon because the couple are too busy. A spokesman for Creation Records said: "Their parents were not there and no other members of the band, it was totally, totally private with just them and the registrar.

"They chose that office because it is the appropriate one of the area in which they live. They don't want a party because it will be turned into a media circus and they are too busy to go on honeymoon.

"No one knew about this until it happened because they wanted to keep it absolutely secret."

A statement from Creation read: The couple and extremely happy and very pleased that they be finally been able to tie the knot without any intrustorie.

Although Sir Paul McCartney married Linda East man at the same office in 1969, Creation denies that had anything to do with the choice of venue by Llamy a lifelong Beatles fan.

The spokesman said: "There is the Be it was not connected with that ... we ask people to te spect their privacy and leave them alone. I have no idea where they are now."

The couple were due to wed in February but cancelled owing to "obsessive media attention" Patsy's last marriage in 1992 to Jim Kerr, singer of the group Simple Minds, ended in a near rlot as photine group sumple warras, structure tographers and minders fought outside the Registr

e. They divorced last October. van from the band Big Audio Dynamite in 1968;

Fred Perry trophies to go under hammer

The tennis trophies and medals of Fred Perry, Britain's last Wimbledon men's singles champion, are to be sold at auction by his family. Perry, who died in 1995, won the men's singles title in 1934, 1935 and 1936 and the mixed doubles in 1935 and 1936.

His three men's trophies, then known as the Renshaw Cup. are among memorabilia being sold. Enthusiasts can also bid for gold medals which accompanied the Renshaw Cups. A racket used for one of the three triumphs is expected to fetch £2,000.

Christie's, which is overseeing the London auction on 20 June, three days before Wimbledon be gins, estimates the 75 lots will fetch up to £150,000. Jill Potterton, of Christie's, said: "He remains a hugely significant figure in British tennis, not least because no Briton has managed to win it since."

Perry, pictured, also won the US Open three times and a cup he was given to keep on his third victory is estimated to be worth up to £20,000 at the auction. He led Britain to four consecutive victories in the Davis Cup between 1933 and 1936 and the gold medal he was awarded for the initial win



is included in the sale. Also being auctioned is a miniature bronze sculpture of Perry which is estimated to fetch between £3,000 and £5,000. It is a copy of the fullsize statue which stands in the tennis grounds at Wimbledon.

Many of the items, including the Wimbledon trophies, have been on display at the Wimbledon Museum at the All England Lawn Tennis Club in south-west London.

The museum was originally of-fered all the items at the auction by Mr Perry's family for £250,000. It declined, saying that many pieces were not relevant to Wim-bledon. Mark Row Mark Rowe

Third time lucky for CSA chief

Today the third chief executive of the controversial Child Support Agency in four years will take up her post. Faith Boardman, a caree civil servant, is also the third woman to hold the post following

Ros Hepplewhite and Ann Chant. Mrs Boardman who was appointed by Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, last month is the former chief executive of the Contributions Agency, responsible for 10,000 staff, an annual budget of £240m and for collecting £42bn of National Insur-

ance contributions. Ann Chant resigned last November. She was credited with saving the agency from collapse but faced constant difficulties after replacing Ms Hepplewhite in 1994 at the height of controversy over the CSA's performance.

Mrs Boardman will be paid around £80,000. Her contract is for

After graduating from Oxford she joined HM Customs and Exclse and in 1989 she was appointed Customs and Excise Collector for central London, responsible for 600 staff and for gathering a major portion of the department's revenue from VAT. She was made chief executive of the Contributions Agency. She is married with two children. Glenda Coope

EDUCATION

Environmental teaching 'indoctrinating children'

Environmental education is indoctrinating children with a "sentimental, unthinking and ill-founded attitude to nature" according to a report by a government curriculum adviser.

Professor Anthony O'Hear claims schools have exchanged "value-" neutral" nature study for "decoder of according to a sentimental professor and the sentimental neutral" nature study for "decades of propaganda about human effects on the environment.

Pupils are now "bombarded with tracts about ozone layers and..."

sustainable environments and graphic representations of sealclubbing, whaling and other forms of what are uncritically presented as pure human wickedness," he says

As a result, children are developing a hostility towards "many of the achievements of our civilisation", even though it is natural for man to transform nature, according to Professor O'Hear, a member of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority

(SCAA).
His report, Nonsense About Nature, published by the Social Affairs Unit, flies in the face of parental opinion on environmental education, revealed in a survey earlier this year for an SCAAappointed panel of government advisers on values in education.

The MORI poli found almost universal agreement with the statement that schools should teach children to "value the natural" world as a source of wonder and inspiration, and accept our duty to maintain a sustainable environment for the future".

SPORT

Black mark for football

It is a game of two halves. It is also, apparently, a game of two colours. Black footballers tend to get paid less than their white counterparts, despite the fact that they have longer careers, scor more goals, and more likely to play for the national side, claims Dr Stefan Szymanski, of London University's Imperial College.
Premier League clubs are among the worst offenders, spending

around £70,000 less for a black player, said Dr Szymanski whose report will be studied by the

Equality. Dr Szymanski's findings are based on a comparison of the wage bills and league positions of 39 clubs between 1978 and 1993. It showed that those with more black players achieved higher positions, but had lower wage bills.
The Centre for Football

nmission for Racial

Research at Leicester University agreed black players were paid less, but said differences might be linked to other factors, such Kim Sengupta



HEALTH

Herbal drinks a sham, says 'Which?'

Herbal drinks are more hype than help - if it is refreshment or revitalisation you want, you would be better off with a cup of tea or a can of cola, according to Health Which?. While health-conscious consumers are paying large amounts of money for drinks containing such things as prickly ash bark, gingko biloha and damiana, their promises to pep you up and fight off fatigue are a am said the Consumers' Association magazine.

This is Patsy's third marriage - Stre wed Dan Danger | Rob Ashton, Health Which; manuaging control, and not all the food law is lagging behind the marketing hype - and not all the manufacturers we spoke to could back up their claims."

In a survey of 16 consumers - two groups, one of which drank drinks such as Purdey's, Amé and Aqua Libra as "health drinks", seeing them as "natural" and "in tune with your body". But the association says the evidence for makers' claims of refreshment and rejuvenation was "scandalously poor". Glenda Cooper

INDUSTRY

Job insecurity on the increase

More than one in three workers believe their jobs are less secure than a year ago despite claims that the "feelgood" factor has returned. A survey by the Manufacturing Science and Finance union, which polled 388 firms, said there had been a "marginally favourable" shift in workers' attitudes to job security compared to previous surveys. However, the union said it was clear workers were not experiencing a "feelgood effect".

Some 37 per cent said their jobs were less secure than a year

ago, with most job insecurity reported in financial services and the NHS. Fewer than one in five said their jobs were more secure than this time last year.



NEWSPAPERS

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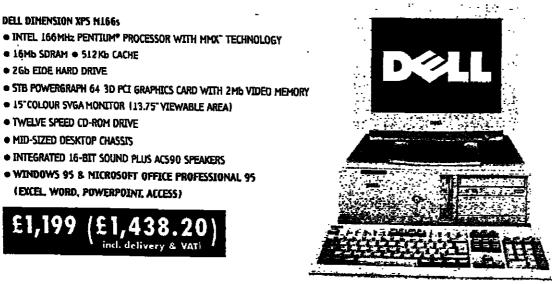
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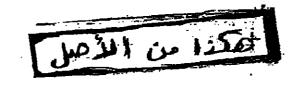
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de-lo:

to

Cab driver who preyed on single women

Matthew Brace

ly abused their trust, spying on

three others in a reign of terror.

terday for the attacks which left

Barthram, of Hainault, east

aching ildren'

> 14 years in jail for man who used his job to target young unattached victims Young, lone women who hired Devis Barthram, a 34 year-old cab driver to single out victims long lasting. Some of your victor women which were traced to his ed his opportunity. It is a territory were invariably young, atminicab driver, did so in good faith, trusting him to take them home safely. Instead, he gross-

They were invariably young at-tractive, single and iving alone. The Common Serjeant of London, Judge Neil Denison, told him: "Over four and a half their every move, raping one of them and indecently assaulting years you used your employment He was jailed for 14 years yesas a minical driver to identify women who lived alone and his victims' lives shattered.

then sexually assaulted them. "The effects are appallingly

Barthram admitted one rape, three indecent assaults and a burglary. He originally had faced a further charge of rape and other indecent assaults which he denied. These were dropped. He was caught while allegedly making indecent phone calls to another three

to the more serious charges, it was decided not to proceed with had told the Old Bailey court.

حكدا من الأصل

In each attack, police believe that Barthram carried out a long-term surveillance on his women were. He knew their habits. He knew exactly what their movements were and wait-

Crofts outside the court.

Barthram first struck in January 1991 while working for a driver in Redbridge, east Lon-don. He raped a 22-year-old secretary as she returned from work - threatening to kill her if she screamed. He struck again in August 1993 and stripped a 25-year-old sales assistant in her

bed before assaulting her. In December 1994, he targeted a 25-year-old hairdresser living in

a ground-floor flat. She had left her patio door open for her cat and had fallasleep on the sofa when Barthram leapt on her. She managed to fight him off, but was left unable to sleep properly because of her ordeal.

A year later, a 26-year-old dress designer woke to find him off and he fled with sever-

al pairs of her knickers. His counsel, Ronald Thwaites QC, said Barthram expressed regret and self-loathing for his actions and recognised he must

After Barthram was sentenced, a spokeswoman for a London all-women minicab company said firms which catered for women passengers by providing women drivers are turning away business be-

enough female cabbies.

Val Taylor, owner of the Hackney and Islington branches of Ladycabs, said: "The biggest problem is getting women drivers. We can get them to work a couple of hours a day, but that's not a lot of good. Some have family commitments, and you can't adversexual discrimination law."

She urged women not to get in the first cab they saw when leaving a pub or night club.

The Hon. Mrs Evans-Freke invites you to join the class of '97 ...

For most people, "Debs" is likely to be the young woman at the checkout in Sainsbury's

But as Britain approaches the millennium, the tradition of The Season, when young girls debutantes or Debs – come out "into society", is alive and even flourishing in John Major's lassless nation.

Last night, the traditional curtain-raiser to the season came in the form of the Berkeley dress show at the Dorchester Hotel in London's Park Lane; it ends at the Queen Charlotte's Ball in the autumn.

The organisers are at pains to stress the charitable purpose of these occasions - around £20,000 was raised last night for co-host NSPCC.

However, a quick glance at the names taking part or the reveals the upper-class origins

Freke, Countess Coronini von son or a decent university cut-Cronber von Pflugl, Mackenzie-Charington and Poole-Warren are just a sample: one wag claimed there were more double-barrels has now changed to allow debuthan at an average clay-pigeon

The Berkeley dress show takes the form of a fashion parade - with clothes from the distinctly egalitarian firm parents, have been trained to millennium."

Mark Rowe and Cofin Blackstock

The latest assault in the battle for French tastebuds is being launched by the British food industry. Not content with a campaign to promote British cheese to Gallic gourmands, a dozen

British fish exporters visit Paris today in an attempt to explore potential markets in France.

The discerning French palate

is worth £1.6bn to British food exporters and makes up 14 per

cent of all Britain's food and

drink sales abroad. "It is our biggest market," said Patrick

Most French people are not

aware that there are so many

different types of cheese in

Britain. The point of the exer-

cise is to explain how they

make British cheese and to

show that it's not all the same.

This initiative is about in-

The debutante tradition, is still going strong,

Michael **Streeter** reports

"have the confidence of a super model" at the Lucie Clayton

College.
The 24 models plus the remainder of this season's 70 debutantes have already undergone the rigours of a "selection tea party" at which veteran society figure Peter Townend, of Tailer magazine, chooses the lucky girls.

nearly foundered in the late 1980s when girls of 17 and 18 where effectively forced to choose between the The Hon Mrs John Evans: hectic social demands of the sea-

But, according to Judith Kark, principal of the Lucy Clayton College, the season tantes to continue with their studies, provoking a revival of interest. There is now much more emphasis on charitable fund raising," she said.

"If it keeps changing and Next - in which the debutante keeps its social conscience I can models, watched by adoring see it continuing into the new



Haute colffure: Debutantes preparing for last night's Berkeley dress show at the Dorchester Hotel - the opening event of the new season

Now it seems the debutantes can continue their fun, perhaps meeting a "Deb's delight" - the name for an eligible young man - at one of the obligatory drinks parties or at sporting events such as Polo at Smith's Lawn, happy in the knowledge that successful careers still beckon after the season's networking. gaged'."

English firms go on a food

counter offensive in France

Marriage, apparently, is no

longer the main object.
"It used to be about meeting a nice young man," admits Ms Kark.

"But now most parents would be horrified if a Deb came home at the end of the season and said 'I'm enMidland Bank pic reserves the right not to open an account. Credit subject to status. Call 0800 180 180 for full written details.



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the increase

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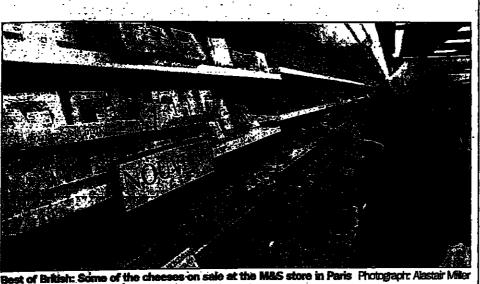
WSPAPERS. PPORT RECK THE PERSONAL PROPERTY. a Car till in the

Davis, chief executive of Food From Britain, a quango mar-keting British products across Even trying to promote chesse to the French seems, at face value, like taking coals to Newcastle. But Hanna Kelner, press officer at the British Emhassy which hosted the campaign launch last month, said:

forming the French as to what British cheese is being made. The fact is that Stilton is very different to Roquefort." Britain's fishing industry hopes to emulate the cheeseakers with an assault on the French shopper. Mariea Limonci, of the Sea Fish Industry Authority, said: "France is by far our biggest export market. The market for fish is buoyant, and over 80 per cent

of French households are cating fish on a weekly basis. We have already had a successful trade mission to Spain Britain than any other country.

Until the BSE crisis, meat



Educating palates: The campaign to become a big cheese

Know English cheese exist

honesty, the domestic mar-

major than the market. We are just

ks & Spencer, the main

tor British cheese in

says cheese ac-

na-enters the

English of least makers will be up against more than lift competition in their sid erack the Trench market, Bey will be taced by wide thread ignificance, writes will Kamingald.

Juffe Kaminski.

A spiriting the British

Einbeiser, the main alm of
the campagin, the laugch
of which Expended last
mother—1 se between the
public about the but is a spiritish

Bo Roll takes schooting?

Einclock Signifer, a French

most fish after Japan and Spain,

imports more seafood from

was by fan the best-selling

was worth £500m a year. It is Last year, France imported just under 29,000 tonnes of fresh now worth £340m, according to Department of Trade and Infish worth £75m and 24,000 dustry figures. tomes of shellfish, also worth Fish, with a French-export £75m. Figures from the Sea market worth £250m in 1996 is Fish Industry Authority show that France, which consumes the

nice are tiny."

adde through its 20

pride in French cuisine created afie second largest market. Cereals (£126m), tea and coffee [255m) and fruit and vegetables (£40m) are the next most pop-

ese exports to France are playing to our strengths."

a formidable cultural gap for the British food industry to tackle.

"There is a barrier," he said. "We recognise the French have their own high-quality goods and a wonderful heritage. But we can also provide quality dar goods selling in France. thing the French respect. We are

counts for 2 per cent of to-tal food sales. Eric Barraud, merchandiser for prepared

and dairy foods, adds: "Our

share of the French cheese

market is .000 something.

Too small to measure. But

125 tons of English cheese

The next push in the cam-

paign comes later this

month with a drive into

Bordeaux in September.

Marsellies and Lyon, and

then on to Lille in June and

Mr Davis admits that Gallic

last vear.

in volume terms, we sold.

THE BUTCHER The E. coli outbreak came as John M Rant & Son were "on the crest of a wave". The butchers in Wishaw had won the title of Scottish Butcher of the Year just a few months hefore it was put at the centre of the epidemic. An estab-

lished firm with more

loyal group of customers, the shop was forced to close for three months and only reopened at to chair the Outbreak Control Team, made up of the end of February. There were accusations from microbiologists; represen some that opening so quickly was insulting to victims and their families, but John Barr was unequivocal yesterday: "I am not happy, but I had ing with the world's second-worst outbreak of E. to trink of the staff," he said. "They have been very colf. "It was unfortunately unique," Dr Ahmed said. depressed about the whole thing and after all they "The people exposed to the organism were frail it was her lungs, heart and bowers with have to make a living too, so I decided to reoper." and elderly and they were particularly susceptible." ally wornying, and that she could die."

THE DOCTOR Dr Syed Ahmed was a consultant on Public Health Medicine working for the Lanarkshire Health Authority when the epidemic began. An expert on communiras one of the first to be "tipped-off" by the

Microbiology Department of Law Hospital that they were dealing. "with something big". He was the natural person health board, local hospital trusts and the council, and which took immediate responsibility for deal-

Mary Caims is now slowly recovering from the effects of the

illness, putting back on the two stone she lost, and gradually recovering her strength, with the help of het partner, ian McFarlane. Her E.coli infection has never been officially confirmed, but many

was the system after infecting an individual and cannot always be picked up by tasts. Mr McFar-lane recalled her filness: "She was initially taken to a couple of hospitals before her condition wors she was very ill but I didn't realise just how sadous it was until doctors took me eside and told me it was her lungs, heart and bowels which w



Butchers on the block in report on E.coli

Charles Arthur Science Editor

Slaughterhouses and small butchers are likely to bear the brunt of new regulations expected to emerge in the Pennington report. to be published this afternoon.

The report by Professor Hugh Pennington was delivered yesterday to the Scottish Office, which commissioned it after the catastrophic outbreak of E.coli O157 food poisoning last October in Lanarkshire, Scotland.

A total of 18 people died, beginning with an outbreak in an oldpeople's home, and hundreds fell

But although the infection was traced to a butcher in Wishaw, the report is not expected to point fingers at the cause of that particufar outbreak.

Scottish scientists have told the Independent that it is often difficult to trace the original infection which could have arisen in a slaughterhouse - more than a few days after it arises.

Professor Pennington, is a leading microbiologist based at Aberdeen University, and was asked by the Government to conduct a scientific inquiry to examine "the circumstances that led to the outbreak" in Scotland and to advise on "the implications for food safe-

learned". But last night Paul Santoni, the lawyer handling comsensation claims for about 50 of the Scottish victims of the outbreak, claimed the report would be "meaningless" for them unless it tackles the issue of how the outbreak began.

The report must deal with the causes of the outbreak," he said. "If it does not, then everything else is virtually meaningless. It would be like saying 'I'm about to tell you how to make the patient better but not what's wrong with them'."

Professor Pennington's interim report, delivered on December 31, found fault with practices in slaughterhouse hygiene practices, and also recommended that shops selling both raw and cooked meats should be licensed, and have separate staff, counters and equipment for the mean

Bacterial infection is easily spread from raw meat - which can be contaminated by faecal material at slaughterhouses - on to cooked meat, E.coli O157 is especially infectious: research shows that as few as 20 cells may be

enough to make a person ill. But implementing the new regulations will be expensive. Slaughterhouses would probably have to implement more thorough washing of animals and carcasses.

Small butchers would be espe-

quiring extra staff. The Scottish Federation of Meat Traders estimates that every extra person would cost the employer, on average, £15,000.

Ray Darlington, of the National Federation of Meat and Food Traders - which represents 11,000 small and independent butchers in England and Wales - said: "We have made representations to the Government. A lot of our members have got separate counters but not separate staff. Hopefully somebody has taken all this into account." But if the report does insist on separate staff, some small butchers

might be forced to close. There was no way to forecast how many might close, nor how many extra people they would have to take on, he said. "We are just going to have to wait and see and then make our decision," Mr Darlington said.

But the seriousness of the danger means that any recommendations would probably be implemented rapidly, he said.

The Scottish Office will be publishing its response to the report today, just 24 hours after its delivery. By contrast, when Professor Pennington delivered his interim report it was not published for a and vomiting. Up to 30 per cent of

gested that a Cabinet committee ment all

of Professor Pennington's recommendations from his interim report. But this was denied by the Scottish Office.

Professor Pennington has already recommended more research into E.coli O157. The bacterium was unknown before 1982. But outbreaks have become comparatively frequent. The Chief Medical Officer's report for 1995 confirms there were 792 isolations of E.coli O157 in 1995 in England and Wales - a 93-per-cent

The dramatic increase is due in part to better surveillance and more testing but more cases are occurring too. Scotland has one of the highest incidences in the world but no one knows why. The previous largest outbreak was in West Lothian in 1994, when 100 people were infected. Scientists traced the source to a dairy.

It can be spread in contaminated, under-cooked beef, and milk and cheese from cows, sheep or

E. coli O157 - also known as VTEC, for verocytotoxin-producing Escherichia coli - releases a poison, verocytotoxin, which causes bloody diarrhoea, severe cramps those infected may suffer kidney Last month some reports sug- problems. Up to 10 per cent - children and the elderly or sick are



Root and branch: The artist Duncan MacAskill with parts of a tree which he is re-assembling for his

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Reuben Bright

DAILY POEM

By Edwin Arlington Robinson

Because he was a butcher and thereby Did earn an honest living (and did right), I would not have you think that Reuben Bright Was any more a brute than you or I: For when they told him that his wife must die. He stared at them, and shook with grief and fright, And cried like a great buby half that night, And made the women cry to see him cry.

And after she was dead, and he had paid The singers and the sexton and the rest, He packed a lot of things that she had made Most mournfully away in an old chest Of hers, and put some chopped-up cedar boughs In with them, and tore down the slaughter house.

Today's selection from the new Penguin Classics volume of Nineteenth-Century American Poetry, edited by William C emann with Jessica F Roberts (Penguin, £9.99), was written in 1897. At that time, Edwin Arlington Robinson was living in poverty in New York. In the 1900s, he became the favourite poet of President Theodore Roosevelt (who arranged a job in the New York customs service for him), and later won three Pulitzer Prizes.

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Overspent health authority in chaos

A health authority which ended the financial year with the largest deficit in the country was run in an "environment of con-

fusion," auditors have said.
The West Surrey Health Authority, which overspent its £330m budget by more than £14m, had no basic processes for controlling its expenditure, their

The findings have angered losaid: "If this was the Ridings

Virginia Bottomley, the MP for Surrey South-West, when details of the crisis first emerged.

Three community health councils, which represent pa-tients in the area, have now passed motions of no confidence in the authority.

They have called a public meeting today to keep up pres-sure. Spokesman Tony Mallard

cal campaigners who were ac-School, the department of edment of confusion and frustra-cused of "scaremongering" by ucation would be in here crawlion and tension developed being all over it. It isn't and

nothing is happening."

The investigation by the accountants KPMG found the budget-setting and contracting process last year "lacked a co-herent framework". Different staff had different

approaches to contracts and their roles were not always

"This created an environ-

tween the finance and the commissioning directorates,

the report found. There was "no clear mecharism for communication" which increased the chance of errors

and omissions in the budgets. The report concluded: "Poor budgetary procedures and an excess of optimism at the start of the year resulted in a budget being set which was far too low,

given the authority's known and likely commitments. The authority has been forced to delay signing this year's contracts for services be-

cause of the problems and will have to absorb cuts of £10m to balance the books. Despite reassurances that measures have been taken, Mr

Mallard said the three councils were not satisfied. "It's a catalogue of confusion, mal-administration and lack of

chaos according to the report." They had written to Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, asking him to send in a team of advisors. "We want to know whether the authority is fit to go into the future," Mr Mallard

control. The organisation is in

Neil Sherlock, the Liberal Democrat candidate in Surrey South-West, said action after the election would be too late as

"Given how the authority have behaved in the last year how can you have confidence in them?" Mr Sherlock said.

An authority spokesman said the same problems would not happen again. He stressed that no money was lost, unaccount-

The difficulties arose at a time when there were changes in senior finance personnel and contracts for the coming year as the authority was merging authority was taking.

Services Health Anthority. Simon Strachan, chief executive, said: "This year we're confident we've got the budgets right and we're expecting 10

strike a balanced budget."
Although earlier identifica tion of the scale of the deficit would have led to a quicker recovery, the auditors said this would not have prevented the need for action of the kind the

New body will ensure fair play and keep sport out of court

British sport is to set up an independent arbitration panel to keep disputes involving players and athletes out of the law

The move follows increasing concern among the sporting authorities over the costs and damaging publicity of litigang from incidents on the field of play.

In a succession of high-profile actions sports stars have sued administrators for banning them from competition and players have sued opponents for

dangerous play. The Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) said this weekend that an independent Sports Dispute Resolution Panel would be in place by the end of the year.

The move was denounced by some sports lawyers who said it was an attempt to put sport ahove the law.

Edward Grayson, a barrister and author of Sport and the sidious. The law of the land does not stop at the touchline or the

can easily be as costly as going

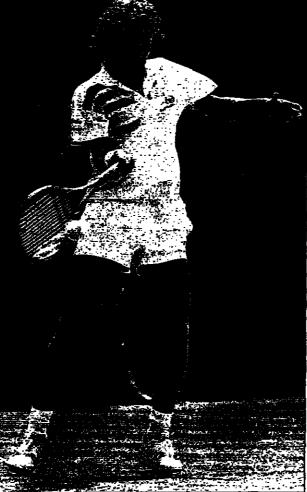
to court. But Nigel Hook, head of technical services of the CCPR, which represents 286 British sporting and recreational overning bodies including the Football Association, the Rugby Football Union, the British Athletics Federation and the Lawn Tennis Association, said this was not the case.

"Putting sport above the law is not the intention. The purpose is stop the increasing cost and time involved in legal cases in court and the increasing desire of individuals to go to court in this country," he said. "This will preserve the in-

tegrity of sport and make sure that the money stays in sport and does not go to solicitors." A position paper prepared for the CCPR, and seen by The In-

dependent, states: "If two highprofile competitors are in dispute

The paper adds: The principle behind an arbitration panel is that disputes would be decided by people interested in He added: "The tribunal system could be said to be symbolic may be indifferent or who may



It adds that the independent intervention if a criminal offence had been committed.

The cleancut image of sport Liverpool for a tackle ended his career.

A similar case is currently being pursued by Gordon Watson of Bradford City against the Huddersfield Town defender Kevin Grav.

increasingly less likely to accept the validity of bans imposed by panel could not prevent police a sports governing body which prevent them from earning a living. Diane Modahl, the middle distance runner, is suing it could tarnish the image of the is increasingly being soiled by the British Athletics Federation sport. Mediation can bring damaging court cases. In 1994, for £500,000 for loss of earnings disputes at an end quickly, Chelsea's Paul Elliott unsueduring a drugs ban that was later cheaply and confidentially." Cessfully such Dean Saunders of overturned. The rugby player during a drugs ban that was later Mark Jones has taken the lists have already been identi- He said: "We would be totally on similar panels in Canada,

> fighting in a game, while the suspended tennis stars Mats Wilander and Karel Novacek

High Court for banning him for



London courts over its right to test and ban players for drugs. Mr Hook said that the new panel would be expected to

resolve disputes within a month

minimum cost. The panel will be made up of volunteers with experience and knowledge of both sport and the law. Several prospective panel-

dispute would each appoint one arbitrator from a pool of names provided.

Robert Horner, a solicitor member of the RFU committee, said professionalism meant that bans for thuggery on the field now affected player's livelihoods rather than just their social lives.

Welsh Rugby Union to the fied. The parties involved in a supportive of the [independent Australia and New Zealand. wore in compensation.



Chelsea footballer Paul Elliott (on the ground) sued Dear Saunders of Liverpool in 1994 over a tackle

arbitration panel] concept

you can have a sensible arbitration procedure it's likely to be quicker and less expensive than going through the courts." The idea is modelled partly

on the International Court of Arbitration run by the Olympic authorities in Switzerland, and

"It is acknowledged that if cluding the FA, have expressed a wish to retain their own disciplinary procedures, only resorting to the panel as a last

> Last night, other sports lawyers said that "in the real world" they would advise their clients to still go to court because of the chances of winnin

Five private rail firms facing financial ruin

Transport Correspondent

Five train companies will have to ask for more cash from the next government to run services, according to a report out yes-

The study, conducted by a former transport analyst with City accountants Coopers and Lybrand for Save Our Railways, the pressure group, claimed that many private operators bid so aggressively for train services they will be unable to meet the ambitious targets they have set themselves.

STAN BUILD

Another four franchises are likely to run into financial difficulties, making losses even if they manage to increase revenues by 16 per cent over seven years.

The loss-making franchises-Cardiff Railways, West Anglia and Great Northern and South Wales and West, Thameslink and Thames Trains - are likely to require more than £500m in extra subsidy in order to keep trains running.

There has been concern in the rail industry for some time about the way that some of the later franchises were let to bid-ting driver numbers, is predict-

On track for profit or loss

The Winners		
	Owner	Possible profit
South West Trains	Stagecoach	£479m
Great Western	Great Western	£462m
Connex		
South Central	CGEA	£451m
Great		A
North Eastern	Sea Containers	. £289m
InterCity		
West Coast	Virgin	. £278m
The Losers		•,
Service	Owner	Possible losses
Themes Trains	Victory Railways	£34.8m
South Wales	-	
& West	Prism	£34.3m
WAGN	Prism	£27.8m
Themeslink	Govia	£18.3m
Cardiff Railways	Prism	£7.9m

ders who were taking a gamble," said Keith Bill, national secretary of Save our Railways.

The City's initial concerns about rail privatisation have meant that many early bids were "given away". South West Trains, which introduced an emergency timetable after cut-

ed to make nearly £480m if it

grows at 3 per cent a year. Also likely to make bumper profits are Great Western. which runs express InterCity services from London to the west country and could make £462m, and French-based company CGEA, in line for more than £600m from its two compoint out that Opraf, the gov-ernment body which let out franchises, realised that some would make money and others would run into difficulties.

Train companies said that the growth forecasts were too low. "In two years we have increased our takings by 50 per cent," said a spokesman for Thames Trains. "So we expect to grow far faster than this report estimates."

The analysis should jolt Labour's rail policy into life. The speed sell-off of British Rail has caught the party off-guard and forced its transport team into a series of embarrassing U-turns which has culminated in a decision not to take any bankrupt train service into public hands.

"We will consider all the options and as a last resort we will offer a bankrupt train service to private bidders in order to secure the best deal for the taxpayer," said a spokeswoman for Andrew Smith, the shadow Secretary of State for Transport. Senior railway managers

point out that this would mean that the Labour party would be forced into paying more subsidy.

of the attempts to conceal the not understand the implica-. are fighting the International moral corruption in sport and tions for sport or how sport At the same time, players are Tennis Federation in the

Service '.	Cavner	Possible proix
South West Trains	Stagecoach	£479m
Great Western	Great Western	£462m
Connex -	医直性皮肤 医毛囊下颌	
South Central	CGEA	£451m
Great		
North Eastern	Sea Containers	. £289m
InterCity		
West Coast	Virgin	. £278m
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& West	Prism	£34.8m
WAGN	Prism	£27.8m
Thameslink	Govia	£18.3m
Cardiff Rallways	Prism	£7.9m

Male officers 'harassed]

isation and discrimination by male officers who wanted to get rid of her, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Constable Sharron Empson, 34, is on extended sick leave after making 40 allegations of scaual discrimination and harassment against five male officers at Doncaster police station in South Yorkshire.

A preliminary tribunal in Sheffield was told that the of-Sheffield was told that the of-ficer, who lives in Doncaster, was called names and teased or she would be dismissed.

A policewoman was subjected to nearly three years of victimbehave like one of the lads. "rude behaviour" and forced to

She claims that life was made difficult for her by certain officers, who purposely made themselves unavailable when she needed them, and her performance was subjected to "ex-

cessive scrutiny".

After a three-month attachment to a sexual abuse unit, the officer says she was even made to undergo "unlawful ques-tioning and detention" by oth-

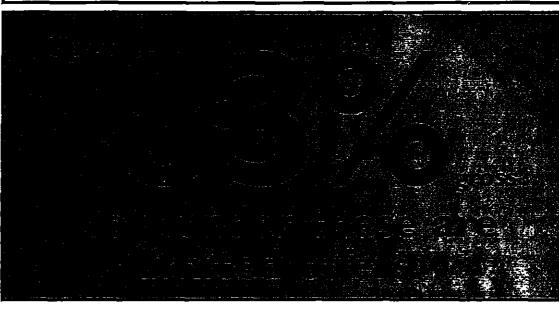
discrimination against South written policy of discrimination Yorkshire Police. She claims the within the force. She has already discrimination began in November 1993 and went on until June 1996, but yesterday's tor, Tina Martin, told the hearing ruled that only three incidents could go before a full tribanal because the other alleged incidents did not occur within the legal time limit.

Louise Varty, for South York-shire Police, said: "It is said that, taken together, the allegations amount to a regime of dis-criminatory behaviour and a regime of victimisation." PC Empson claimed that the PC Empson is claiming sex incidents amounted to an "un-

used the force's internal grievance procedure but her solicitribunal: "She's done everything within her power to have the matters to which she was being subjected stopped and that did not happen.

The tribunal ruled that the allegations made outside the time limit could not be considered with more recent allegations because there was "no common thread" between them. A full hearing concerning the remaining allegations will be held later.

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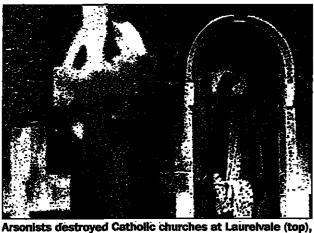
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Burnings, beatings, torture... another weekend in Northern Ireland







wn (middle) and St Comgall's in Antrim

Ireland Correspondent

Arson attacks on both Catholic and Protestant church property in Northern Ireland were yesterday denounced by the head of the Church of Ireland as "taking sectarianism to the ultimate limit."

The condemnation, from Archbishop Robin Eames, was rigorous and forthright, yet it seems unlikely that it will staunch the tide of burnings which has reached new heights over the last year.

The burnings of churches and church halls have, like paramilitary "punishment" beatings, almost become part of the background static of what might be termed sub-terrorist violence. The hundreds of beatings and scores of burnings have become almost a matter of

Most of the attacks have been on Catholic property, with systematic burnings not just of churches but also of schools in many parts of Northern Ireland. In the latest incidents a blaze destroyed the 200-year-old Muliavilly Catholic Church at Tandragee, Co Armagh late on Sunday night. This was the fifth attack on church property in less

At the weekend arsonists destroyed another Catholic church, St MacNissis at Randalstown, Co Antrim, and damaged St Comgall's in Antrim town. A Church of Ireland hall at Donaghmore, Co Tyrone was also damaged.

Such attacks have always the late 1960s. But last year's A Protestant man from Lis-Orange stand-off at Drumcree, Co Armagh, produced a rash of incidents, and since then they have been maintained at a high

What to ask for

when you get a

spread a great deal of bitterness and mistrust, especially in small rural communities. They also cost substantial amounts of money: damage to schools alone over recent months has been put at around £20m.

Archbishop Eames declared: Those responsible must not be allowed to claim that they are acting on behalf of the vast majority of decent people in either community. These are one more example of the sickness which lies at the root of so many of our problems here -

naked, corrosive sectarianism." The Catholic bishop of Bishop of Down and Connor, Dr Patrick Walsh, described

the attacks as an abomination. The Muliavilly parish priest. Father Kieran MacOscar, said yesterday: "Our church is completely destroyed. Only four walls remain. A parishioner rang me in the middle of the night to say it was on fire, and by the time I got there the blaze was out of control.

A number of the affected churches were visited by both Catholics and Protestants anxious to express their sympathy. The Rev Brian Harper, the Church of Ireland rector who also lives at Mullavilly, said: Everyone is very shocked. There is no way the Protestant community here would want anything like this at all." In the latest punishment attack, meanwhile, loyalists beat

a 14-year-old boy in front of his mother in their east Belfast home. A group of masked men broke down the front door with been a feature of Northern a sledgehammer and beat the boy Ireland, going back well before and a man with pick-axe handles. the outbreak of the troubles in Each suffered a broken arm.

> burn, Co Antrim, yesterday appeared in court charged with four murders between 1987 and 1989. He was said to have walked into a police station and



Wanted: funds to safeguard future of Ellen Terry's shrine

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

Lewis Carroll thought her a "beautiful little creature", Oscar Wilde was besotted and and leading artists painted her and designed her costumes.

In the late 19th century, the actress Ellen Terry had not just the theatrical world in her thrall but an impressive cast of friends and admirers from the less transient arts.

Terry's 20-year partnership with Henry Irving at the Lyceum, alternating Shakespeare with melodrama, stands unparalleled in theatre history. Audiences flocked to see them and London's traffic was brought to a halt on first nights.

This year is the 150th anniversary of Terry's birth in Coventry into a family of "circuit players" who went from town to town. Though she would later correspond with literary figures such as Walt Whitman and assemble a heavily annotated library, Ellen never went to school. The stage was preordained for the young Terrys. The National Trust is using

the anniversary to launch a fund-raising campaign for Terry's country retreat, Smallhythe Place, between Tenterden and Rye in Kent. It is also publishing a new glossy guidebook, Ellen Terry and Smallhythe Place. The house is almost as re-

markable as the woman herself. Half-timbered, with a steeply

to buy it and in 1899 she did. .

pitched red-tiled roof, it was built in the early 16th century as the Port House. Standing by the garden gate today, it is hard to believe Smallhythe was once a port.

The harbourmaster was long gone and the place known simply as "the farm" when Terry and Irving came upon it while driving around the Kent marshlands. According to the new guide, by Joy Melville, the actress immediately declared that this was where she would like

Smallhythe was Terry's haven from a busy life - she was lecturing and touring in the United States well into her 60s - and she died there in July 1928. Her daughter Edy made the house a shrine, though there is little sombre about it, displaying portraits, posters, many gifts and mementoes from admirers and

other actors and actresses, and also some of the lavish costumes that Terry wore in her prime. Shimmering works of art, to live and die. Irving told her there is the costume for Guin-

evere in King Arthur designed by Sir Edward Burne-Jones, and the dress for Lady Macbeth made famous in a painting of Terry by John Singer Sargent, It. is covered in real green beetle

Oscar Wilde observed that while Lady Macheth "evidently patronises local industries for her husband's clothes ... she takes care to do all her own shopping in Byzantium". ■ Ellen Terry and Smallhythe Place: Joy Melville: The

New route to orgasm discovered

Two researchers at an American university believe they have isolated a chemical that produces

orgasms in women.
Such a finding could lead one day to a pill that would give a person the same sensation as an orgasm and might have use in treating pain, said Professor Barry R Komisaruk, of Rutgers University in New Brunswick,

New Jersey. His research part-

ner was another Rutgers pro-fessor, Beverly Whippie, who in

1982 wrote the book The G-Spot and Other Recent Discoveries domen and chest cavity, into the neck and to the brain stem. A About Human Sexualities. The researchers focused on a group of women paralysed by

spinal cord injuries. In the past, experts have argued that people with such injuries were unable to experience an orgasm. What Professor Komisaruk found was an alternate pathway

to sexual arousal through the va-

gus nerve, which goes directly from the cervix, through the ab-

1995 study measured the women's heart rates, breathing and blood pressure as they were stimulated sexually. "Contrary to what people may think, we discovered that

women in the study who were paralysed and had no feeling below the breast area were, in fact, capable of having orgasm. Professor Komisaruk said. Those experiments helped lead to the isolation of the vasoactive intestinal peptide, which he believes is the neurotransmitter, or chemical messenger, in the body that causes the orgasm sensation in the brain. While investigation in the cause of sexual dysfunction not new research into developing a specific organ pill-is "unique," said Kath Pin-navaria of the Kinsey Institute a sex research centre in Bloom ington, Indiana.

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Business on the Internet. all potential, no performance, right? With a company that's growing at a rate of 5,000% per year, Jeff Bezos couldn't disagree more. He's GEO and founder of Amazon.com, the world's largest and most prosperous on-line booksfore. "The Internet can help you gain or lose a lot of customers." The Internet can mean very quickly" says Jeff. So he hooked up with DIGITAL. "It's the for your business or says. "It's also nice that has experience helping people do business on the net," he for your business or says. "It's also nice that DIGITAL has the world's widest the high ghoway to help with." growth, Amazon.com support its rapid. It all depends on who you hook up with." growth, Amazon.com has upgraded its DIGITAL AlphaServer. 2000 series to two DIGITAL AlphaServer 8400s, ideal for high growth corporations. "We're using AlphaServer systems to run our key on-line electronic commerce systems as well as our entire range of back office and financial applications." Bezos says. The fact is, DIGITAL has lots of ways to help you transform Internet potential into Internet profits... Blazing servers, network components, proven expertise plus world-class AltaVista. Internet business software. Everything you need to make Internet profits a lot less virtual. To make the DIGITAL edge your own, call us today on 0800 595 200, e-mail moreinfo@digital.com or visit us at www.digital.com.

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election'9

Major whirls around the country

PM's campaign trail takes in Grand National

As a day of election campaigning, even by modern standards, John Major's outing to the Grand National at Aintree must count as one of the maddest on record.

The Prime Minister went on a 1,400-mile round-trip to send a defiant message to the IRA by attending the Grand National after rearranging a day's campaigning in the north-west and the South of England.

It involved a flight to Manchester in a Boeing 737 loaned by British Midland and three flights in a flotilla of helicopters provided by Bristow's.

The day began when the Prime Minister flew to Manchester Airport from RAF Northolt to visit the Fairfield NHS Trust Hospital, Bury, to support two "one-nation" Tory MPs, David Sumberg and Alistair Burt, who are defending key marginal seats.

On the flight to Manchester, two photographers accompanying the election tour organised a £1-a-head sweepstake for the National. Mr Major picked Magoni Beach, a 66-1 outsider. From Bury, Mr Major and his wife, Norma, flew by helicopter from a nearby playing field to Andover, in Hampshire, around 350 miles, with two helicopters of press members following.

After landing on a football tield. Mr Major visited an engineering company producing sories" run by David Hearnshaw. a company chosen hecause he is opposed to the So-

would sign.
The Prime Minister had been due to fly on to Kempton racecourse to tour a nearby school but diverted back north. As he climbed into the helicopter, a group of boys playing football anted "There's only one Tony

After spending less than an hour on the ground in Hampshire, he set off for Aintree, a trip of a further 350 miles, to see the Grand National, thank the security services for their work over the weekend and to cheer on his horse.

copter to complete his day's engagements in Cheltenham, visiting a local Tesco supermarket and clocking up another 350 miles in his eight hours. Mr Major's day: 8.30am leaves CCO; 10.00am takes off by 737 from RAF Northolt;

Then it was back in the beli-



John Major: One

cial Chapter, which Tony Blair 11.00am arrives Manchester Airport; battle-bus to Bury; 11.15 tours hospital; 1.15 leaves Bury by helicopter; 2.30pm arrives Andover; 2.35pm visits factory; 3.02pm leaves factory; 3.23pm leaves Andover; 4.45 arrives Aintree.

The official theme for Day 15 of the campaign was billed on press releases as "British excellence at risk day". But the message the Tory strategists wanted to convey was of a man on the move, John Major as Action Man.

Before we left Smith Square. I spoke to Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman. He was dressed in slacks and a blazer, looking remarkably relaxed, although the polls are refusing to move. Even with three helicopters, the Major campaign has had trouble lifting off. Flashing a smile, which can put fear into enemies, Mr Mawhinney summed up the day by saying: "The medium is

The party leadership wanted to get back on to the attack after being frustrated that Tony Blair's "wobbly weekend" had been pushed off the front pages by Martin Bell standing as an anti-sleaze candidate against Neil Hamilton in Tatton.Mr Major in Bury barely concealed his irritation. He had not, to his knowledge, even met Mr Bell. but BBC sources said he had given the reporter, a veteran of Bosnia, a list in his plane from Split to London and had invited him up front for a chat. Tory sources said the Prime Minister met many people and could not remember them all.

... but just who is paying the fares?

Colin Brown

The Prime Minister's use of three helicopters for himself and his party, with press, to cover 1.400 miles yesterday raised questions about who is paying for the Conservative Party election campaign.

Bristows, the company providing the helicopters, including a Sikorsky for the Prime Minister and two Pumas, insist they are not doing it as a donation to the Tory party. A Conservative spokesman

said: "It is not a donation by Bristows. It is expected that the total cost for the six-week campaign of the helicopter bill will come to £20,000."

A British Midlands 737 jet which Mr Major used to fly to Manchester vesterday is being provided by British Midland, whose chairman. Sir Michael Bishop, is a party supporter. Sir Michael accompanied John Major on his visit last week to the Scottish Borders and is believed to be a substantial private donor.

novelist and veteran White House observer, said the Conservative Party's election campaign funds were the biggest mystery of the campaign.

The Tories have reversed a £19m deficit and are expected to spend at least £20m on their campaign. The Tory party chair-man, Brian Mawhinney, has laughed off reports that he has a war chest of £40m but it is likely that the total sums raised amount to £40m, including wip-

Much of that transformation may be due to anonymous overseas backers who in the past have included such figures as Azil Nadir, the discredited former head of Poly Peck, now a fugitive in northern Cyprus. Tony Blair, the Labour

has promised to ask the Nolan Committee to investigate party funding if Labour is elected, in order to clean out the political stables in

Mr Major has refused to

Gore Vidal, the American match the Labour leader's promise and has attacked Mr Blair for hypocrisy in operating with a blind trust to hide the names of donors to his private

> Labour will divulge the names of any sponsors donating more than £5,000 to party

In this election, the Tory party is receiving £7,000 per head from newspapers and broad-casting journalists for daily travel costs. But the names of the big backers are unlikely to be declared. They may include Lord Forte, listed at the weekend as the equal 58th-richest man in Britain, with an estimated fortune of £275m after the hostile take-over by Granada for his family-hotel business.

After Baroness Thatcher went to Conservative Central Office to address the troops on Sunday, a black Rolls-Royce drew up and Lord Forte slipped inside barely noticed.

And that is how the donors

In firing line: Martin Bell, the anti-sleaze candidate in Tatton, answering questions from a baying press pack yesterday Photograph: David Rose

Bell runs media hacks' gauntlet

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

BBC journalist comes out squeaky clean under probing

Martin Bell had come under fire before; he had been wounded by shrapnel; appearing before the television cameras is second nature to the man. But there he was, trembling, fingering his watch, and nervously rubbing his forehead when he appeared before the world's media as prospective anti-sleaze candidate for Tatton yesterday.

Before he even entered the grand Smeaton Room, in the grand Institute of Civil Engineers at Westminster there were jokes about hacks fiddling their expenses, and what dirt would be dug up about him. who would fling it, and whether he would last the course ahead.

As it was, his diffidence was rather disarming. But that did not stop his fellow hacks ripping into him. Whose idea was it; who had paid for the press conference venue; why did he not know; what were his policies on tax, education, Europe;

who did he vote for; what skeletons had he got in his cupboard; where did he come from; how much money did he have in the

"This is, even for somebody who is accustomed to scary experiences, extreme," he said. He added later. "I would much rather run snipers' alley in my armoured vehicle, Miss Piggy, than this. I really would." He was as honest and as open

as he could possibly be in his answers, but the more honest he was, the more the pack pressed a monumental Mail conspiracy. home the attack. Why would he All that was missing were skelenot identify the person whose idea it was? Why did he not know who had paid for the room?

Mr Bell preferred not to divulge the name of the man who had first broached the idea. But pressed by the Mail, he said in the end: "Oh, all right, I'll tell you who it was."

It was Tom Stoddart, a photographer whose Bosnian war and at the moment I have to say

Augus Deayton could be

Speaker and Danny Baker, the

chief heckler from the ageing

Dennis Skinner. Meanwhile.

the aggressive Jarvis Cocker.

(Michael Jackson's chief ac-

votes for the heroes of television

fiction, for example the smooth

photos formed part of an exhi- I find it fairly bare." In all his bition he had opened at the Roy-al Festival Hall last Thursday.

The man from the Mail could not contain his glee. Beside himself, he said accusingly that Mr Stoddart had nothing to do with the Labour or Liberal Democrat parties. "He's in fact the longterm partner of Kate Hoev."

Ms Hoey is Labour MP for Vauxhall, and Mr Stoddart took describe in the greatest detail Labour Party - £375. "I'm per-the photograph of Tony Blair on the route of his journey from the feetly willing to pay £375 here the front cover of Labour's manifesto. It had all the makings of a monumental Mail conspiracy. tons, spies, dead letter boxes, the

Times crossword and Asterix. But Mr Bell, as obliging as ever, came up with the goods. When I asked whether he would pass the Sun test - was there anything in his past that he would not like exposed by the tabloids - Mr Bell said: "I have been examining my cupboard

time at the BBC he had only had his expenses queried once, and that was last November when an illiterate Delhi taxi driver had been unable to give him a receipt for a fare. He was perfectly willing to show anyone his bank statements and his tax re-

turns: no problem. Mr Bell was also pressed to Royal Festival Hall, on Thurs- and now." he said. "It's not a day, to the Institute of Civil Enproblem." And his bank acday, to the Institute of Civil En-

After he had agreed, in prin-ciple, to stand in Tatton, on Saturday, he had been whisked up to the constituency on Sunday for separate meetings with the local Liberal Democrat and Labour parties "It was like a scene from a bad spy movie," he said. Having met the Liberal Democrats in Wilmslow, he had been taken to a car park and

local Labour Party. "We were late," he said, "and I was handed over like a package.

He was then asked by the Erpress: "Given the subject of this press conference, shouldn't you know who's paying for this room?" Mr Bell looked completely nonplussed. "I probably should know who's paying for this room, yes," he said.
The man from the Times.

obligingly shouted out that the room had been paid for by the count? "What's in my bank account now? I've just got paid for my paperback, which I cannot recommend too highly. I got raid about £11,000 a week ago. I spent about £8,000 because my car's running out. Plus what I had in my account; I think I've now got £6,500."

l'hat ch

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Mr Bell's father was the first compiler of the Times crossword; his sister translates Asterix handed over to a man from the books into English.

Saying goodbye to the grey men

Martin Bell MP? The possibility that one of Britain's most admired war correspondents will take Neil Hamilton's seat offers a tantalising glimpse of how politics might be enriched if the parties lost their stran-glehold over the Commons. So who elsewould perform

well in the chamber, who is not, like Richard Branson, already established on the tired list of the great and the good? As Olga Maitland, Giles Brandreth and Glenda Jackson

have shown, moving from the

media into politics can be easy.

cuser and lead singer with Pulp) would make a better job of rooting out sleaze than Sir Gordon And there would be plenty of

cunian tones wafting across the (Nigel Le Vaillant). despatch box: "So Chancellor, But these figures are fantawhere's all the money gone? Let's have a heated debate."

sy characters, played by indi-viduals who in reality are unimpressive. Finding people of Martin Bell's calibre is difficult. shock jock, could take over as Nevertheless, here are my choices to join Martin Bell at Westminster: Delia Smith, trusted by hun-

dreds of thousands of voters, mainly women, for advice on a fundamental part of of their lives. She could explain everything in simple steps.
Sheila Kitzinger, author of

child care books, would make

corruptible atheism, vital in this era when politicians like to bear the mantle of priesthood. Likewise Stephen Hawking,

needed for general wisdom about life and the universe. Lenny Henry and Dawn French (new Heritage Secretary) to replace the Bottomleys, for their humour, work with Comic Relief and the fact that there are not enough very fat

Indajit Singh, editor of the Sikh Messenger and regular con-tributor to Radio Four's Thought for the Day, where he

women in Parliament.

Stephen Tumim, former Chief Inspector of Prisons, who proved he was prepared to tell the truth about jails, even though honesty cost him his job. Likewise John Stalker, who investigated allegations of a "shoot-to-kill" policy in North-

ern Ircland. Rnud Gullit, manager of Chelsea and one of the most intelligent figures in British sport. He would be easily an equal. match for Michael Howard at Home Office questions, provided, of course, he could get himself a British passport.

THE HURRIED VOTER'S GUIDE

That the outcome of the Neil Hamilton cash-for-questions affair is anyone's

split on the favourite to win the Tatton seat. Ladbrokes issued odds on Mr Hamilton to win at 1-5 favourite. They quoted Martin Beil at 3-1 against. William Hill, on the other hand, have Mr Bell as 1-4 favourite, and Mr Hamil-

guess was well illustrated by the fact that even the bookmakers were

THE CAMPAIGN

Yet again the day was dominated by sleaze. Martin Beli, the BBC war correspondent, held a press rierence in Tatton to announce "anti-sleaze" candidature against Neil Hamilton. Mr Hamilton remained defiant, and vowed to fight on in the Tony Blair went to the City of London

to deliver a speech promising a review of government assets with a view to more privatisations. John Major went on a long tour of the country, starting with an NHS Trust in Bury, Lancashire, then on to an

engineering firm in Andover, Hampshire, and finally ending up at Aintree for the Grand National. The Liberal Democrats were concentrating on nursery education, promising that every three- and four- year-old would be offered a place

by 2000. The Paddy Ashdown and John Major battle buses found themselves within hooting distance of each other at Manchester Airport, but an ester Airport, but an embarrassing road-rage confrontation was averted. The Lib-Dems' vehicle known as the "Paddy Wagon" – passed by without so much as a single insuit ing hurled from either bas.

KEY ARGUMENTS

John Major dismissed the threat that Martin Bell poses in Tatton, saying the move showed how little support Labour and the Liberal Democrats had in the Cheshire constituency.

Everyone in this country has a legitimate right, if nominated, to stand in the general election," the Prime Minister said. Tony Blair used his City

speech, predictably, to attack the Tories for what he called their "mindlessly negative" approach and for their "roller-coaster economy, gyrating between one extreme and another". He added that there would be no more trade union beer and sandwiches at Number 10 under Labour.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said Labour were "unprincipled scoundrels", making it up as they went along. Later, he added that the campaign had degenerated into a "hysterical soap opera".

Meanwhile, Plaid Cymru Launched its manifesto accepting

launched its manifesto, promising a full-blown Welsh Parliament with law-making powers which would create jobs for 100,000

GOOD DAY

winner yesterday, and although he was a Lord, he: beat the noise bases by major and Blair (see Bad Day), and Magori Beach, which Major had also picked in a sweepstake. The two party leaders must hav envied the noble Lord as he

ton at 5-2 against.

was not a member of any political party: Lord Gyllene, winner of the Grand National Lord Gyllene beat the horse backed by Major

coasted home to a comfortable

The Prime Minister app on television to say that he was backing the Grand National conner Go Ballistic Strangely, Tony Blair apparently followed John Major's line on the Grand National Issue, and backed

the same horse in a sweepstake. Thus cursed, the unfortunate beast did not stand a chance, and failed to complete the course.

HOGWASH

BAD DAY

statement in support of Nell Hamilton, the former minister who is at the centre of the cash-for questions scandal. After lunching at the femilions home, he hald court in the garden. "What has shone through here is the tenacity, which is most admirable. Nell is standing up for what he believes in," he said.

Bill Roach, who plays Ken Barlow in Coronation Street, made a

THE OTHER PARTIES

The UK Independence Party published its manifesto, with leader Alan Sked launching into a vitriolic anti-European rant at the press conference.

"It is the most bizarre set of undemocratic, unaccountable. incompetent, financially-proffigate institutions that the world has ever seen,"

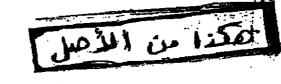
Meanwhile the Scottish National Party launched its manifesto with party leader Alex Salmond declaring that Scotland could become a prosperous, small independent country which could "pay its own way in the world".

MEDIA STAR



The BBC war correspondent Martin Bell was in the line of life esterday as he fielded questions from colleagues at a press conference. He confirmed he was putting himself forward as: ar independent anti-corruption candidate to stand against.
Neil Hamilton, saying he was reacting to the wishes of

John Major dismissed the threat that he poses to the large 4. John Major dismissed the threat that he poses to un ways Conservative majority in Tatton, but Mr Bell countered: "I'.! I send up looking stupid, I end up looking stupid. I know kith responding here to the wishes of the constituency."



election'97

Reassurance for the City as Labour leader accepts need to embrace free enterprise system

Economic middle gets Blair blessing

Tony Blair espoused the virtues of a mixed economy yesterday, promising an end to "beer and sandwiches" with the unions while promising more support for the dynamism of the market economy. "Labour," he said, "is now the party of busi-

In a keynote speech to business people in the City of London, the Labour leader put forward his plan for a "third way" of running the economy, one which lay between state control of industry and the laissez-faire policies of the Tory

right.
Our task is not to return to the past," he said. "It is to equip Britain for the future ...

We accept, and indeed embrace, the new global economy ... I accept the need for economic discipline and embrace the role of free enterprise in economy. There will be no re-

treat from any of that."
The speech, at the Corn Exchange, was designed to calm City fears of a Labour victory at the general election and to set out Labour's credentials as a party which recognised the val-

ue of wealth creation. Mr Blair flagged Labour's new support for some aspects of privatisation, committing the party to a National Inventory of asset-rich government departments. He promised to borrow only to invest and to match the Government's target of 2.5 per cent inflation or less.

Most of all, he stressed Labour's determination to encourage business, leaving it to

this partnership entails and what it does not," he said.

"This is no re-hash of 1960s corporatism. There will be no national plans, no grandiose strategies. But there will be an acceptance that business and government have to work to-

turn to tripartite institutions or beer and sandwiches at Number 10. These are things we are not going to do.
"We have moved beyond re-

assurance. Our aim now is to build a partnership with business that is broader and deeper than any post-war government has templated

He spoke of the need for flex ibility of labour through better training and education, a concept he termed "flexibility plus" - flexibility, plus policies to en-sure economic stability; partwith business leadership in Europe; backing for small firms; investment in infrastructure, science and research; and welfare reform and minimum standards in the

"In addition, we must ensure that the operation of monetary policy is above suspicion of political manipulation," he said.

To this end, we will create a Monetary Policy Council at the Bank of England ... These changes should enable us to achieve much greater macroeconomic stability than we managed in the past 20 years, when the UK economy has been by far the most unstable of the major developed economies of the OECD

The intention, he said, was to



he said: "I have made it clear that we will make our decision on the basis of Britain's national

Options, he said, would be kept open and Britain would join only with the approval of the Cabmet, Parliament and, in a referendum, the British people. Britain, he said, should be influencing the future of the EU from inside, not the fringes.

"The Tories argue that things are fine, that this is as good as t gets," he concluded.

"We argue that Britain deserves better and can do better. Better than 35th in the world skills league. Better than 18th

flourish where left alone but to in the world prosperity league. end "the plague of short-terbe supported by the state where. mism" that had dogged British people are not feeling good for improvements in infrastructure industry. one simple reason - there is not were needed. On joining a single currency, 'enough to feel good about." Thatcher's children wary of new broom rule - a period which has been had a smooth ride, as he did at

The man in the orange jacket spoke with the kind of clarity voters have been crying out for. writes Steve Boggan.

The markets are worried about Labour. They are already depressed at the prospect of Blair getting in and that has been reflected in prices over the past couple of months. If Lahour win, we are all expecting a hike in interest rates. There is a lot of fear - the perception of Labour and all the old industries, its links with the unions and so on. The City does

not want Labour to win."
As Steve Clark, a financial futures trader at the London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe) spoke, two colleagues nodded agreement. Yet, for all his fears about Labour's past, the Winter of Discontent and reminders of 98- per-cent supertaxes under old Labour, Mr Clark is only 21.

It is people like him who have to be won over by Tony Blair. They are the backbone of a vibrant financial sector but they

particularly kind to them. Labour knows this, hence Mr Blair's keynote speech to businesspeople at the Corn Ex-change, followed by a tour of the trading floor of the BZW in-

vestment bank. The speech was well re-ceived, mainly because most of those present were invited from a 15.000-strong database of entrepreneurs and executives already visited by Mr Blair or Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor. Among the most important was Sir Peter Heap, adviser to the board of HSBC Investment Bank, who said business no longer feared Labour. "The market is unpredictable, but looking at the work of analysts, none is predicting any catastrophes or disasters. Quite the contrary, in

Other Labour proponents of other traders, Mr Sellars included Lord Hollick of Unit- put into words the factor that ed News and Media Pic, the film-maker Sir David Puttnam and Lord Paul of the Caparo

BZW.

But opposite the investment bank's entrance overlooking don Regalia floating restaurant and from this, in their garish blazers, other traders looked on, nonplussed. They were not always well-informed. but they were consistent: the City was wary of Labour. "People are not convinced at all by their strategy for business," said Stuart Ward, 30, a gilts trad-er from Essex. "The general feeling is one of uncertainty. People believe that, secretly, they are still hand-in-hand with the unions." His colleague, Tony Sellars, 33, from Kent, said: "I don't believe them on taxes; I don't think many people do. They keep saying 'We can be trusted, but I'm not so sure." Echoing the sentiments must be visiting Labour strate-gists' worst nightmares: "What I always say," he offered, "is: Better the Devil you know..."

Slim pickings left after selling the family silver

A favourite joke amongst-economists is the one about the economics professor who walks past a £50 note he sees lying in the street. "If it were really there, somebody would have picked it up already," he

So it is with privatisation. If there were a lot of easy sales left. the Guvernment's plans would have pencilled in privatisation receipts of more than £1.5bn next year and fibn the year after. This is a far cry from the peak of more than £8bn in

Some of the more obvious candidates left for sale would not be big money spinners. The Post Office was expected to go for £1.5hn-£2hn when its sale was discussed last year. Bits like Pareclforce would bring in less. Channel Four would be a smaller sale. London Underground would raise nothing because of its continuing need for subsidy. In fact the list of obvious tar- a parliament, the options for pri-

the choices for privatisation _ facing the next government

gets remaining in the public sec-tor presents slim pickings. The Oil and Pipelines Agency? The Commonwealth Development Corporation? Nirex? The counts put the value of central Development new town Corporations?

The Conservatives have sold off the family silver apart from the odd salt cellar - raising about £70bn since 1979. A privatising Labour government will have to start thinking about selling the furniture and the

ancestral home. With Gordon Brown's office suggesting that it would be possible to realise "several billion pounds" over the course of

Diane Coyle On vatisation must include gov ernment land and buildings. This is a plausible figure The Treasury is in the middle of

a process of auditing everything central government owns as part of the planned switch to resource accounting" - the introduction of commercial style accounts to the public sector due to start in 1999. The current, less-than-satisfactory estimates in the national acgovernment-owned tangible assets at £94bn - almost certainly an underestimate, but it does include almost all the roads and bridges in the land.

Selling off a few tangible assets would be less controversial than the other alternatives. Apart from the BBC - and it may yet happen - that boils down to the Housing Action Trusts and National Health Service Trusts. To sell the entire NHS is probably a step further than even new Labour would be prepared to go.

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And the New Labour machine sets its sights on "Switchers" and "Squeezers"

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

James Goldsmith is sitting on a bench outside the Gravesend branch of Marks and Spencer, chatting cheerily to Clare Short. He is very confident, he says, that Labour will win the election.

Does that mean that the local candidate can count on his support, then? He looks down at his feet. "Er, well I've got a bit of a problem with my address at the moment." It transpires that Mr Gold-

smith - this is James Goldsmith the homeless man from Gravesend, of course - hasn't got one, but he can be contacted via his mobile phone. Labour's overseas aid

spokeswoman hoots with laughter. "You're of no fixed abode and you've got a mobile phone? You are nineties man! With or without his vote. Mr

Goldsmith is sure the Conservatives' internal battles will finish them off.

"Absolutely," Ms Short agrees. "And we are completely united." There is no obvious irony in her words. She may have been unhappy about the way New Labour was run in the past, but there is not a hint of

Out "on the stump" with Chris Pond, director of the Low Pay Unit and Labour candidate for Gravesham, she is loval to a 't.'

Gordon Brown's plans for more privatisation? She is all for

'We have always believed in a mixed economy. People like me have never said extending the public sector was Socialism. she says, stoutly.

The mood is convivial as the small carnival weaves through the thin Monday morning "I hope you get an absolutely



Jollying up support: Clare Short makes a phone call back to head office during a visit to the local party workers at Gravesend

crowds, here offering handshakes, there accepting a hug or a kiss on the cheek.

One very plummy lady rushes up to tell Ms Short she thinks she is "absolutely super."

"I've seen you lots of times on the television," she gushes.

wonderful job in the govern- gering number of soap opera

Such enthusiasm has to be admired. Already a healthy handful of Labour frontbenchers and an equivalent number of Conservatives have glad-handed their way through

especially well, for Gravesend was the fictional destination of Dot Cotton when she took leave of Albert Square. Michael Cashman caused quite a stir, as

Dr Legg in the series. And the local police were thrilled to be introduced to Simon Rouse, DCI Meadows in The Bill.

There must be Tories in the town-its Conservative MP had a majority of 4,500 at the last election - but few can be found

Perhaps the New Labour machine is so efficient that it has managed to sweep the opposition off the streets. Even the three "nurses" who began the day wrapped in red tape for a photo-call turn out to be a Labour Party researcher, a fullone who works for the Low Pay

Down at the campaign headquarters, they are busy stuffing envelopes; personalised letters with different messages for Tory faithfuls, waverers and longterm Labour supporters. The talk appears to be in code.

Photograph: Nicola Runtz

Squeezers, explains Maureen Pilcher, the office manager, are Liberal Democrats who might be persuaded to vote Labour. ritchers are former Tories.
"And," she adds solemnly, "I

believe the twitchers I keep talking about are some kind of

Ashdown finds himself hoist with own petard

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Paddy Ashdown was left squirming yesterday after he had attacked the Prime Minister for making personal attacks
- of the kind he was alleged to have made himself at the

Speaking at his daily election press conference, the Liberal Democrat leader spent some time deploring the way in which "spin doctors and political mechanics" appeared to be dominating the campaign.

He said he could never remember a time when the issues - of education, the environment, Europe - had been bigger.

But Mr Ashdown added: This whole thing is now being hidden under a top dressing of political management, sound bites, spin doctors - and the public are not getting to debate the real issues that matter.

"When the thing degenerates down to the kind of personality insults that the Prime Minister used over the weekend, I get very concerned indeed.

"When the Prime Minister says on, for instance, [the BBC television programme Breakfast with Frost [on Sunday], that he doesn't want to personalise the insults, and then at the same time publishes in the Daily Mail a comment like 'the Labour leader is slithering and squirming. I think that demeans the office of Prime Minister.

He continued: "I think it's the kind of campaign which indi-

Mr Ashdown then attacked Labour, as a party, for repeated policy changes - without in any way personalising it in the way the Prime Minister had

The muck and bullets of the

hustings arrived at a school gate in Sheffield Hallam yesterday,

when Labour and Liberal

Democrat activists clashed over

While Paddy Ashdown

toured Greystones primary and

infants school, the party's foot soldiers skirmished with half a

dozen Labour representatives

who claimed the Liberal De-

mocrats were flouting Queens-

berry rules to persuade electors

in the playground, the adults

outside engaged in a set-to, in

a constituency which the Lib-eral Democrats are desperate

to wrest from the Conservatives.

by a letter from Richard Allan.

the Liberal Democrat candi-

date, which pointed out that the

Labour man had finished a

Labour's ire had been raised

As children frolicked amiably

Barrie Clement

"dirty tricks".

to vote tactically.

done. Labour, he said, had abandoned everything it had believed in, and had performed eight changes on Europe alone. while the Liberal democrats stood where they had always

rivals' tactless tactics

distant third in the last election

"and everyone agrees that he

More infuriating for Labour

activists was the claim that

they were sending their crack

troops to other, more winnable.

constituencies, and that Bruce

Kent, a former Labour candi-

date in the area, was orging his

party's supporters to vote for

sent to voters, went on: "Of

course, a few fanatics will still

vote Labour here - even if their

vote helps re-elect Sir Irving

Patnick, the Tory MP! But

many Labour supporters say

they will be making their vote

count on this occasion, to make

sure the Liberal Democrats

James Brown, a Labour Par-

ty member for 45 years, said he

was proud to be a fanatic and

that his party was not sending its most energetic activists else-

defeat the Tories here."

Mr Allan's letter, which was

Mr Ashdown's party.

"We haven't had to abandon everything we believed in," he

Mr Ashdown was then asked to explain the difference between Mr Major's attack on Mr Blair, "slithering and squirm-

where. Mr Brown said there was

no question of him voting for

lan, "we could wake up on 2

May and be one of the few mugs

specialist working for the Na-

tional Health Service, tried for

sympathy: "I gave up my job in

election and now I owe £15,000

to the bank and members of my

family. My house has got no cen-

tral heating."
Mr Ashdown had more im-

portant matters on his mind, as

he sat down to a lunch of

cheese, pie and chips and jam

Despite the main parties' concentration on key con-

stituencies, activists are refus-

ing to lie down. Sheila Bacon.

tart with the children.

ebruary to campaign in this

Mr Allan, an ex-computer

"In that case," said Mr Al-

ther party.

left with a Tory MP."

jor to a dodgy second-hand car salesman. Mr Ashdown said: "I did not use the words, 'dodgy secondhand car salesman. I know Labour cry foul over that's what people put on the speech that I gave on Saturday. In fact, I said, 'Let's assume that

in deciding how to vote at the next election, you were buying a family car'. Then I went through the various procedures; the means to express the way that you might go about making a choice. Dodgy second-hand car salesman' is not a phrase I recall that used in that speech at all.

ing", and a speech issued in his

name at the weekend, in which

he supposedly likened Mr Ma-

think there is a great difference between attack and humour in this campaign, and that is the important point.

"Let me put it this way; I

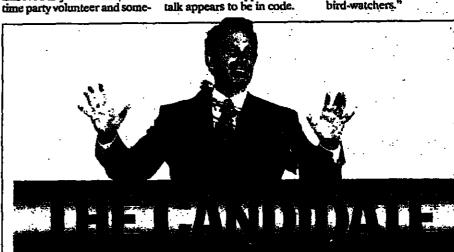
Earlier, he said: "Two thousand babies are born in Britain each day. "My message to the parents

of those parents born today is that only the Liberal Democrats will make the difference to those children by giving them a real head start in life. "High-quality early years ed-

ucation is not only the educational foundation stone for every child. "It is also the first building

block in turning Britain into an education superpower. "We're going to create a school-leavers' class of 2015," he

62, a Labour supporter, said: "If you are going to vote tactical-ly, you should vote Labour." added, "which competes with the best in the world.



by Aanonymous

6 He was

determined

leadership 9

atherhood was the first big one and this is the second. I mean, once upon a time you could not imagine what it would be like to be your own dad. And then you were a dad, and had to be patient with the kids and choose their schools and wipe their bottoms. Ready or not, you

had arrived. So now, it seems, this fellow your own age (you might have gone out with the same girls, wet your loons at the same Monty Python sketches, both - arms linked - have shouted "The National Front is a Nazi Front" as the Union Jacks paraded past), this fellow, is going to be Prime Minister. Prime Minister. Will run the country, save it from wars, broker peace deals (the way they do), make speeches at the Mansion House and so on. So it could have been you. And how would you be feeling right

now if it was? That's what I was thinking as I watched the candidate standing in the glass-ceilinged corridor, waiting his cue to enter the large, packed, critical room. I was empathising with him. And

he was moving gently from foot to foot, in soft jerks, every now and again looking up sudden-ly and surveying the glass ceiling - as though inspecting it for cracks. He is - I realised - a creature of disguised angularity, his physical fluency diminishing the nearer you get. From far away he sweeps; from close-up he figs.

Semi-consciously he was making his serious faces. Everyone knows his grin; too lovely, too open, for a cynical age. So he was practising the grimace of determined leadership, furrowing his brow,

pursing his lips (or even bending his lower lip over altogether), so pushing his jaw out. Benito Mussolini, I recalled, did this too. But where Musso's eyes were cold, these were kind enough - a black, deep line developing in the corner of each, like an Egyptian kohl stroke.

The suit on his long body was, as ever, dark, and the cotton shirt was impossibly white. Shirts, I thought, are only ever that white when you first unwrap them from the plastic, removing the cardboard and pins. So all his white shirts must be virgin; worn for the first time that day. His appearance was immaculate right down to the one mousy curl, escaping authentically onto his forehead, as if to say "I'm real!" Really, the whole concept was

When, after a minute or two, the socialist millionaire with the clipped beard had

finished telling the audience about how Keir Hardie had invented the market, the candidate breathed out, and set off down the aisle. As he walked quickly to the front, television lights picked him up, dusting his hair with white light and flattening out the new lines in his face. What was he thinking

(I thought)? That he loved doing this? That he hated doing this? That he would endure doing this because he had to? His voice, when he began to speak, was still that of a very young man - almost an adolescent's. Thin and high, it hinted at the possibility of a sudden undermining squeak or

embarrassing giggle. And he sounded slightly nervous, but was he? Perhaps he was and he genuinely could not help it. Perhaps he wasn't, but thought it was rather cute - humble - to sound as though he was. And, most likely of all, perhaps he was, thought about faking it, and realised that they all really wanted him to to be. No one - least of all the British - likes a

"Only connect", said EM Forster. Is that why the can-didate peppered his speech, entitled "A Strong Economy" with unscripted conversational you's and I's? "You know" "so the essence, if you like",
"I mean", "you see", "I suppose", and - most characteristic, most vicarly, most semi-consciously practising the grimace of connecting - "I say to you" (alallowing

audience the democratic possibility of "and you say to me"). And he said to us that new forces had been unleashed, new technology was to be

harnessed, new market economics were emerging: the new global economy had to be accepted and - indeed - embraced. Then he had finished. His aides formed a

line to show him first to a side-room, and then it was out and on to the next appointment. I wondered what you might take him to be if you had never seen or heard of him before. A charismatic young surgeon, perhaps, a knighted pediatrician -tough but tender and with strong hands that heal.

In three weeks time his journey will finish. It could end in historic defeat, or else in a night of exhausted celebration - followed by the cold dawn's stabbing revelation that the candidate was no longer the candidate, but was now the Prime Minister. Wanting to find out which, I bought a ticket for the bus.

MEDIA WATCH

Rules which differ for the pundits

Paul McCann Media Correspondent

While Martin Bell is putting his career in danger by standing as the anti-sleaze candidate in the Tatton constituency, other medía candidates scem to find a shot at politics no hindrance to advancement, given the right

The BBC said yesterday that it would review Mr Bell's position when the election is over. Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News, said: "It is really difficult to use people on screen in the front-line news areas who have publicly declared a polit-

People from the BBC who choose to stand for Parliament Mr Bell, unlike the Today

are obviously aware of how it might affect their future career." programme reporter Ben Bradshaw, who is running as a Labour candidate in the Tory marginal of Exeter, was put on immediate unpaid leave when he announced his candidacy. Mr Bradshaw attracted claims of bias from the Tories because the BBC did not find him a non-

news job quickly enough. For the long list of newspaper journalists running in the campaign, the rules are not so clear.

The Daily Telegraph's assistant editor, Boris Johnson, continued to write for the newspaper's politics pages long after he had secured the candidacy of the ably find an entire arsenal of nounced his candidacy.

Conservative Party in the Labour fortress of Clwyd South. The Telegraph also has Dean Godson who is running as a Conservative in a media headto-head against the former BBC broadcaster and sitting MP Austin Mitchell in Grimsby. The paper lost the writer Julie Kirkbride when she was selected as Tory candidate for Broms-

Mr Johnson denies he has removed from his columns anything that could be a hostage to fortune for his political ambitions: "If people look at my stuff they can see there has been no censorship. If an opponent wanted to go through everything I've written, they would prob-

ammunition, if that was their His editor, Charles Moore, believes there is nothing wrong with a candidate writing about

politics as long as the readership knows of the writer's alle-The Guardian editor, Alan Rushbridger, disagrees. "I now wonder if I am reading Boris Johnson as a candidate, or as a

have him writing leaders and columns while seeking high office in the Tory party."

The Guardian's Martin Linton, running for the marginal Tory constituency of Battersea, was taken off of the newspaper's coverage of polls when he an-

pundit," he said. "It is wrong to

two hopefuls. Yvette Cooper is seeking selection as Labour candidate for Pontefract and Castleford and Paul Farrelly is standing as Labour candidate in the Conservatives' third-safest at, Chesham and Amersham. Ms Cooper moved from writing leaders to European economics correspondent in keeping with Independent's policy of

taking candidates off a direct political beat. There is a long history of candidates from the media entering Parliament, from Tom Driberg, who was a diarist on the Express before becoming a Labour MP, to the tragic case of the former BBC reporter

المكذا من الأعل

Border manifestos: Nationalists pledge independence, and a care package to shame Westminster

SNP sets out its socialist Vision

Stephen Goodwin

An independent Scotland would make England look a mean-spirited place to live for pensioners. schoolchildren and anyone earning less than £26,500 a year if the measures proposed in the Scottish National Party manifesto published yesterday ever came to pass.

There would be: 100,000 more jobs; 20,000 new affordable homes; 700 more teachers; higher child benefit; coldweather payments for the elderly throughout winter, and, lower VAT for all on fuel. Public spending would rise by

THE KEY POINTS

proportional represent 16 and 17-year-olds.

Fair tax system with £26.500-plus earners paying more. Lower rate cut from 20p to 15p in the pound. Celling on NICs to be abolished. Cold-climate allowance of £9,20 a week for pensic and those on benefit throughout winter. Abolition

Extra £35m a year for Scottish health service. almost £6bn over the first four years of separatism, paid for by economic growth, defence savings and - by far the largest slice - so - the hotly disputed fiscal ship

lus with the rest of the United

Mincrease child benefit to £12.50 a week.

Miotal ban on hand gons.

s-testing of the

Kingdom claimed by the SNP. Is it a fantasy? Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, insisted yesterday that Scotland could beway, citing an estimate by the amendment Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development that it would be the eighth richest nation in the developed world. He also cited a Treasury suggestion that Scotland has contributed £27bn more to the Exchequer since 1979 than it has

Judgements by respected economists are being traded selectively by the parties. The Liberal Democrats deployed a paper by Jim Stevens of Strathclyde University asserting that

ħ

the SNP's plans were based on predicting £18bn of revenue "which simply does not exist" while the nationalists countered with Jim Walker, formerly of the Royal Bank, endorsing the "positive maths" of independence.

Labour's George Robertson said the SNP proposals were a "cruel deception and an insult to the intelligence of the Scot-

Charles Kennedy, for the Liberal Democrats, noted the irony of the SNP favouring London Treasury figures over those from Strathclyde, while Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, ridiculed the nationalist's "Walt Disney politics". "The SNP may be cooking on gas but they simply would not be able to pay the bill," Mr Forsyth said.

Setting out the most socialistinclined agenda of any of the main parties, Mr Salmond said the SNP wanted to change the economy and society, balancing enterprise with social concern. But first they had to regain independence.

"We can only achieve these objectives with a sovereign parliament for a sovereign people," said the SNP leader. "We need a powerhouse parliament, not new-Labour parish council which would leave control over economic and social policy firmly in Westminster's hands."

The route to independence is spelt out in the manifesto, After the election of a majority of SNPs, the party would immediately begin negotiations with London. In the last parliament if held four of the 72 seals in

between "two mature democ racies" need only take between 6 and 12 months after which Scots would be asked to approve the "independence settlement" come independent and pay its in a simple one question

While people earning more than £26,500 a year would pay more tax in the SNP's Scotland - largely because of the abolition of the ceiling on National Insurance contributions - the party estimates 85 per cent of male employees and 95 per cent of women would pay less. A "Pensioners' Package" would see the elderly gaining from a £9.20-a-week winter-heating allowance, the scrapping of their standing charges for electricity, gas and telephones, and the



Onward: Alex Salmond, SNP leader, unveiling the party manifesto with MP Margaret Ewing Photograph: Colin McPherson

abolition of means-testing for residential care. "The fact that people are selling their homes in order to pay for care is the most enormous scandal," Mr Salmond, said. Abolishing the

test will cost £45m a year. Defending the new Scotland would be a navy with surface and submarine warships - but no Tri-

ulars, including commandos and a tank regiment. Traditional Scottish regiments would be re-

stored wherever possible. An extra £1bn would be spent over four years on restoring Scotland's reputation for "educational excellence". All

force and an army of 9,000 reg- be entitled to free nursery education, and priority would be given to reducing class sizes. Student loans would be replaced by index-linked grants and a further £50m a year spent on youth and adult training. With 90,000 homes in Scot-

dent nuclear missiles - an air three- and four-year-olds would erable standard, the SNP promises to allocate almost a £1bn to housing over four years.

As for a monarch, the Queen and her successors would be "allowed" to remain as Head of State. However, in their absence from Scotland the role would be filled by the Chancellor (Speakland deemed to be below tol- er) of the new parliament.

Plaid Cymru reforms put constitution top of agenda

Plaid Cymru launches its manifesto today with a claim that the constitutional future of Wales is forcing its way to the top of the election agenda.

The 72-page bilingual docu-ment demands a Welsh parliament to take over responsibility for policies ranging from health and housing to the environment and education, said at present to be foisted on Wales by West-

Under the slogan "The Best for Wales a programme of umbridled nationalism lambasts the Tories for ruling by quango, Labour for tailoring its pro-gramme to seduce Worcester Woman and Basildon man, and the Liberal Democrats for slipstreaming in Tony Blair's wake.

The unveiling of the mani-festo will take place in Cardiff's City Hall, the venue for Labour's proposed Welsh assembly - a body Plaid condemns as a toothless talking shop.

Dafydd Wigley, party president and MP for Caernarfon,: said: "We need an elected parliament in order to ensure policies on an all-Wales level which correspond to the needs of Wales, not the needs of London." Law-making and tax-rais-ing powers, similar to those Labour envisages for a Scottish parliament were required to keep Wales' democracy in good

Like the Scottish National Party, Plaid Cymru challenges "the historical forgery that is the British state". The nationalist point to the principality's growing prosperity as evidence that as part of the European Union, and self-governing, Wales could also expect to undergo an economic transformation.

Several policies open up an attack from the left on Labour. A minimum wage of £4 an hour is proposed. The link between pensions and earnings, severed by the Thatcher government, should be restored. National Health Service trusts and GP fundholding are candidates for abolition. Eye tests, dental checks and prescriptions should all come free of charge.

A ban on tobacco and alcohol advertising is demanded, the latter likely to be unpopular with the SNP because of the Scotch whisky trade.

Legislation to strengthen the Welsh language comes in for special attention. The nationalists want every public body and utility to provide a comprehensive service in Welsh to the public. Firms with more than 50 employees would be required to prepare a language

English would be designated "official languages".

A tax levied on second homes aims to take the sting out of long-running resentment of owners of property in Wales used only at holiday time.

Arxious though Plaid is to add to its four Westminster MPs the party is playing a long game hinged on loosening ties with England as a first step to self-government. "It is neither the Crown nor Parliament that holds the inalienable right to govern Wales, but the people of Wales themselves," Mr Wigley said.

The manifesto predicts that Labour's ability to tackle unemployment would be seen as a touchstone of proposals for a Welsh assembly. Plaid Cymru's target is the creation of 100,000 extra jobs. Although private enterprise is identified as the principal engine of job creation.

THE KEY POINTS

Establish a Welsh parliament with law-making and taxation powers to take over from Westminster Introduce a £4-an-hour minimum wage and create 100,000 new jobs. Reform the health service.

Abolish GP fundholding and NHS trusts. Scrap charges for prescriptions, eye tests and dental checks. ■ Add 2p to the standard rate of income tax to pay for

Restore the link between pensions and earnings, severed by the Thatcher

Legislate to promote the Welsh language. English and Welsh to be accorded equal status. Employers with more than 50 staff to produce

gaps would be filled by publicsector initiatives.

An increase in public spending financed by a mixture of higher taxes and borrowing is deemed necessary. "Plaid is not afraid to advertise this approach nor to contend that the cost of unemployment should be borne by the whole community and not just by the already victimised unemployed,7 the manifesto affirms.

The Welsh Development Agency and the Development Board for Rural Wales would be replaced by a new National Development Authority with a wide brief and answerable to a Welsh parliament.

The party's reforms would be paid for by an increase of "up to 2p" on the standard rate of income tax and, over time, a reduction in employers' National Insurance contributions which form a tax on employment.

OF THE

somebody who is accustomed to scary

experiences, extreme

He made a sweeping visit up

here and he will go straight

back down to cosy Hamp-

stead to do his press con-

ference. He could not even

be bothered to stay up here - Christine Hamilton, talking

It is sad that Mr Martin Bell

appears to have allowed

himself to be cynically ma-

nipulated by the Labour and

Liberal Democrat parties'

spin doctors - Alan Barnes,

chairman of the Tatton Con-

servative Association

DAY

Martin Bell

about Martin Bell

AROUND THE REGIONS

Good candidates make Clwyd West a close call



The Clwyd West constituency is a mainly rural area, the scat of Rod Richards, a former Welsh Office minister, which should have remained strongly Conservative even on its new boundaries. But, although it is 97th on Labour's target list of Tory seats and Labour requires a 9 per cent swing to take it, the opinion polls suggest it could be vulnerable.

Mel Williams, the area representative for the Farmers' Union of Wales, says: "It is very difficult to gauge what is going to happen. Opinion polls say there will be a landslide victory for Labour, but I am not convinced. It will depend on how much damage Rod Richards did to himself - he did the honourable thing and resigned.

Mr Richards quit last summer after tabloid revelations of an affair with a 28-year-old divorces, but survived an attempt to deselect him. Before that he was mostly famous for apologising after describing Labour local councillors in Walcs as

"short, fat, slimy and corrupt".
According to Mr Williams, Rod Richards has started to talk a lot of sense since his troubles. When he was in the corbe distant and have a certain 'do as I say' attitude. He seems to have mellowed since. But farmers play things close

to their chests and Rod Richards is up against some damn good candidates," says Mr Williams. The Tory vote is concentrat-

ed around Rhos-on-Sea, where retired businessmen are scared of new Labour taxes. The seat includes the holiday resort of Colwyn Bay. But up towards the tops of

the valleys the farmers are rongly nationalist. Plaid Cymru, which only won 5 per cent of the vote here in the last election, is engaged in a furious argument with Labour

over tactical voting. Phylip Hughes, the Weish actor, stirred the homet's nest of cally. the Free Press's letters page when he wrote to attack the "middle-class clientele" of Plaid Cymru, whose support for independence would put at risk "their present standard of living, their good, steady, often well-paid jobs or pensions." And he warned that a vote for Plaid would let in Mr Richards. A Nationalist fellow Thes-

pian responded furiously, ac-

ridors of power, he seemed to cusing Labour of "abandoning its principles daily."

Gareth Thomas, the Labour candidate, is a barrister who, although brought up in Birken head, is a fluent Welsh speaker. a strong supporter of devolution, proportional representation and the Welsh language. He is a Flintshire councillor and lives in Mold, just outside the constituency.

The next door constituency of Vale of Clwyd, which includes Denbigh, is a new Tory scat, one of Labour's top target seats only 31st on its list. Here Christopher Ruane, a deputy headteacher in Rhyl, in the constituency, needs only a 25 per cent swing to win it for Labour. He has been inundating our office with faxes for months now and is a well-known voice lo-

The Tory candidate, David Edwards, got in touch with this office yesterday for the first time, which is probably leaving it a bit late. As the election bandwagon gains pace, the Torics are going to have to step up their fight for the hearts and minds of Clwyd West voters.

Mark Hayhurst

Official clock starts running as Parliament is dissolved

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Parliament is formally dissolved today, starting the official clock running for the election on 1

According to a Commons library research paper: "Dissolution may occur at any time: Parliament does not need to be sitting, nor to be recalled, for the purpose of dissolution.

"It is normally carried out by Royal Proclamation with the Great Seal affixed, and announces not only the dissolution but that orders have been given for writs to be issued for the summons of the new Parliament. "The writs are dispatched by

Christian Wolman

Westminster Correspondent

A Labour MP who has been at

war with his constituency party

over corruption allegations con-

cerning the local council has de-

cided not to stand again, paving

the way for a candidate to be im-

old MP for Kingston upon Huli

West for the past 14 years, said

yesterday that he was standing

down "to spend more time with

his family". Mr Randall, whose

wife, Gillian, worked as his

secretary, has three grown-up

daughters and a grandson.

Stuart Randall, the 58-year-

posed by the national party.

Crown in Chancery and are in the United Kingdom. delivered on the following day to the returning Officer for

each constituency." The dissolution will be marked in the City today by a reading of the Royal Proclamation by Colonel Tommy Tucker, the Common Cryer and Serieant-at-Arms for the City of London, in a ceremony which dates back to 1309.

On Friday, there will be local publication of the notice of election, which is also the first day on which candidates can submit their nomination papers.

Candidates are required to be proposed and seconded by local voters, with eight locally-registered voters assenting. There post from the Clerk of the are 44,203.694 registered voters is 4pm.

Mr Randall's 11th-hour with-

drawal will put the spotlight on

the Hull party. Mr Randall has

also been at odds with John

Prescott, Labour's deputy leader.

over the running of the local council which Mr Prescott has

Mr Randall said that the late-

ness of the decision was as a re-

sult of "thinking about my future

over the Easter weekend". It

means that the Hull West and

Hessle party, which has been in

dispute with the MP for some

years, will not be able to choose

its own candidate because there

is not time to run a ballot among

local party members, Indeed,

strongly defended.

The candidates election deposit is £500, and to save the deposit a candidate is required to win no less than one twentieth of the total votes cast in a constituency. In 1992, 903 candidates lost their deposits.

For registered voters who are going to be away and unable to vote on 1 May, the key date is Wednesday, 16 April; the last day for receipt of absent voting applications, which can be obtained from local town halls. The deadline for receipt of

those applications used to be Noon, but has now been extended to 5pm. For candidates, nominations close on the same Wednesday - but the deadline

had Mr Randall announced the

decision straight after Easter

there would have been time for

a local ballot and the delay ap-

pears to have been the result of

an agreement between the na-

The National Executive Com-

mittee's by-election panel will

meet "later this week" to decide

whether to hold a ballot but this

Hull Daily Mail ran a front-page

story saying that Mr Randall

being comunt". Leaked minutes

revealed that Mr Randall had

told local Labour members that

"had accused the city council of

Last year, a local paper, the

is now highly unlikely.

tional party and Mr Randall.

Voters who are unable to vote on 1 May for unforeseen, emergency, health reasons, are able to get absent votes up to 5pm on 23 April.

A combined election will be held on 1 May, for the first time since 1979, with national and local elections coinciding throughout England. All English county councils

are facing election again, along with the reorganised, shadow unitary councils for Blackburn, Blackpool, Bracknell Forest, Halton, Herefordshire, Medway Towns, Newbury, Nottingham, Peterborough, Plymouth, Reading. Southend-on-Sea, The Wrekin, Thurrock, Torbay, War-

rington, Windsor and Maidenhead, and Wokingham.

the council "had a poor local

reputation" and was "corrupt".

an investigation into the alle-

gations over a deal through

which a developer, Keepmoat,

was given first refusal over all

housing development land in the

area. Subsequently, the chairman of housing, John Black, ac-

cused Mr Randall of not being a suitable person to be an MP

and Mr Randall issued a writ for

libel against him. A senior local

councillor has also been the sub-

ject of paedophile allegations

and the police have been called

in over expenses claims by two

councillors.

The Labour Party launched

So far we have had a dumabour MP leaves Hull stranded my election. The voters have

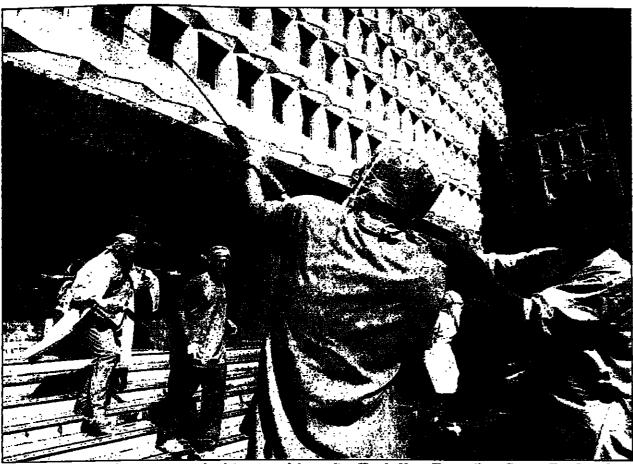
been cast in the role of dummies. We have had no debate on Europe; it should be the fundamental issue of the

- Alan Sked, leader of the UK Independence Party

The calling of the election has probably made people think more deeply about moving to somewhere more

attractive - Doug Elkins, of the state of South Australia, explaining why large numbers of people have been inquiring into the possibility of emigrating to Aus-

Compiled by Sam Coates



Crimson tide: Junior doctors spray red paint on a social security office in Marsellle, southern France. They have been striking for five weeks in protest at government austerity meas

Brussels bets on Blair win to seal reform deal

Katherine Butler Noordwijk

European Union heads of government are planning a special summit on 23 May to put an emerging deal on a new European constitution to Tony Blair, on the assumption that Labour will win the British general

Plans for the summit, which is likely to be held in Maastricht, crystallised in the sidelines of an EU foreign ministers' meeting in the Dutch coastal resort of

Noordwijk yesterday.

The plans reflect the fact that. Britain's partners have given up negotiating with the Conserva-tives on the future of Europe. The Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring summed up their exasperation with Britain yesterday. They are not in a po-sition to demand anything because they are against every-

are slowly nacrowing down a series of possible trade-offs on wide-ranging reforms to the Maastricht Treaty.

They are anxious to pin down Mr Blair at the earliest possible opportunity, in order to salvage stalled treaty-review talks and produce a new pact when they meet in Amsterdam three weeks later.

One diplomatic source said that the Tories, who have been blocking progress on all but the most marginal reform ideas, have been "written off" as serious partners since the elec-

tion campaign kicked off.
The idea of a special summit with a new Labour Prime Minister – if he wins – is to give him a first-hand account of the nature of the deal which is being put together, the official

Tony Blair will have to be shown the books," he said.

asked to address proposals which remain deadlocked after Noordwijk, but on which foreign ministers believe deals can be

done over the coming weeks. Labour has already indicated that it would maintain the Conservatives' opposition to the scrapping of national borders and to a future merger beween the EU and Europe's defence body, the Western European Union.

Both issues pose difficulties for other member states, so Mr Blair does not risk isolation. He also has a good chance of securing an opt-out from moves to create a passport-free travel zone for EU citizens.

Deals on these issues could be facilitated if, as suggested, Labour withdraws the Government's demands for treaty changes to outlaw fish quota hopping and the use of safety and health provisions to legislate for conditions in the work-

EU diplomats believe that on virtually every other issue Labour are willing to negotiate.

These include: The Social Chapter opt-out. Labour have made it clear they will sign up to the Social Chapter but they will also be asked to agree to a legally binding chapter in the new treaty on employment. The latest Dutch proposals have been rejected out of hand by the Conservatives because they would give the European Commission a role in co-ordinating and initiating measures to tackle job creation. Britain could be ordered to take steps deemed necessary by Brussels to meet annual unemployment targets and would

enjoy no right of veto.

• Qualified Majority Voting. Labour are likely to back moves to scrap the national veto in a handful of areas, such as legis-

The Labour leader will be industry, but not on taxation or constitutional questions, which is not being proposed. Mr Blair will, however, strenuously resist proposals to extend majority voting to co-operation on judi-cial matters, immigration or

foreign policy. · Size and powers of the European Commission. Britain would lose one of its two European Commissioners if proposals to cut the size of the 20 member executive to 15 win acceptance. This would mean that either Sir Leon Brittan or Neil Kinnock, Britain's two commissioners, would lose their

France looks likely to be defeated over its demands for a Commission with a maximum of 10 members, but there is still the possibility of a two-tier structure in which some Commissioners would be given more influence than others. Mr Blair would have to decide whether to sacrifice one British commissioner, and whether to exact a price, in terms of more voting strength for Britain in the Council of Ministers. Labour will have to decide whether to back strengthening the powers of the European Commission president, which is on the cards. Votes in the Council of Ministers. A British Labour government could be expected to line up with the other big nations in demanding a fairer re-weighting of votes in the

law-making Council.

Taking population into account would seriously tilt the balance in favour of the bigger member states but is considered essential by France ahead of EU expansion to the East. The latest indications are that most governments will opt to postpone a decision on the Council votes until enlargement has taken place in the early years of

significant shorts

Patten awards British passports to war widows The Governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten, laid to rest a

dispute over British passports when he threw a tea party for widows of local servicemen who fought for Britain in The party, at Mr Patten's residence at Government House, was to celebrate the awarding of full British passports, including the right to live in Britain, to 40 widows and wives of servicemen. Reuters - Hong Kong

Chechen 'hero' stands in

Chechnya's President, Aslan Maskhadov, yesterday named a guerrilla commander who is on Russia's most wanted list as acting leader while he is visiting the Middle East.

While many Chechens see Shamil Basayev as a hero for his 1995 hostage-taking raid at a hospital in southern Russia, Moscow considers him a terrorist. AP - Grozny

Hanbo chief admits funding Kim

The founder of South Korea's troubled Hanbo Group, in testimony broadcast from a Seoul jail, told a parliamentary inquiry he had donated money to President Kim Young-sam's election campaign. The collapse of Hanbo's steelmaking flagship in January uncovered con upt links between the group and politicians in both ruling and opposition parties.

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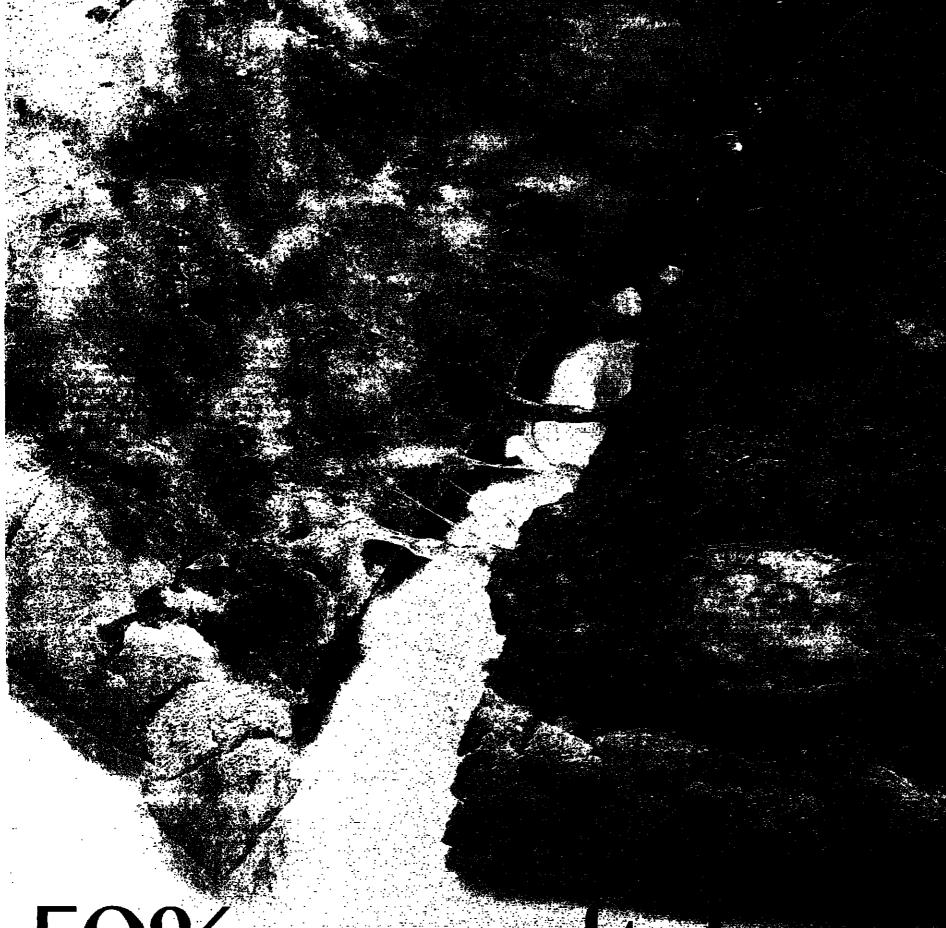
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Zaire regime tumbles towards abyss

Troops desert Mobutu as endgame approaches, reports **Mary Braid**

The government of corrupt Zairean dictator, President Mobutu Sese Seko, was pushed nearer the abyss yesterday when government soldiers prepared to hand over Lubumbashi, the country's second largest city, to rebels without a fight.

The advance of Laurent Ka-

bila's rebels continues at breakneck speed, helped by the mass defection and desertion of government soldiers.

Only 48 hours after taking Mbuji-Mayi, centre of Zaire's diamond industry, the rebels have surrounded the copperbelt city of Lubumbashi, more than 100km south, and will soon control the mineral-rich southern provinces of Kasai and

In Lubumbashi, government troops donned white arm bands to signal their switch to Mr Kabila and danced in the streets with approving citizens. They woke vesterday morning to the surprise news that the rebels had captured the town of Kipushi, just 30km away, on Sunday. Once again the rebels seem

set for a walk-over. Men claiming to be junior officers in the Zairean army called on their troops to lay down their arms and join the rebels.

President Mobutu is being repaid with wholesale disloyalty for a 32-year rule, characterised by repression and personal greed on such a scale that it has impoverished Zaire. Despite the country's huge natural resources the majority of people in Kasai and Shaba, like most Zaireans, have remained dirt

"We've all changed sides," said Sergeant Kafua Otamba at the barracks of the 21st Brigade in Lubumbashi. "We're ready for the arrival of Kabila. We've suffered enough in Zaire. We must get rid of Mobutu."

1s British

stants in

indicate the stanger

war widow

an and Grant 🐧

It was not clear last night if the army had gone over to

country, those asked to defend tottering regime.



Rising anger: Students demo trating against the Mobutu regime near the Arts University campus in Kinshasa yesterday

Lubumbashi have little to thank Mr Mobutu for. "We've had no pay and we have no food," Sgt Otamba said.

As Lubumbashi looked set for a relatively orderly hand-over, elsewhere all was chaos. Three days of talks between the rebels and Mr Mobitu's negotiators in South Africa have so far yielded nothing. They began with a stand-off, with the rebels demanding Mr Mobutu stand down and his representatives insisting on an immediate ceasefire. Rebels on a roll are hardly likely to meet that demand, es-

The country's three main political forces - President Mobutn, Mr Kabila and the Prime Minister, Etienne Tshisekedi - are all at odds. Mr Tshisekedi refused to attend the South African peace talks and Mr Kabila has condemned him for accepting the premiership for the third time under Mr Mobutu, and refused the offer of rebel seats in Mr Tshisekedi's

Mr Mobette, ever the consummate and cunning politician, in approving Mr Tshisekedi's appointment seems vide and rule the opposition. He diamond sales. "Before, all the ration in Shaba province.

may be succeeding, for the op-position is in disarray. But if Mr Mobutu is in any doubt that the writing is on the wall he should look at the behaviour of foreign mining companies with current and prospective interests in Zaire. They are already treating Mr Kabila as boss.

De Beers, the company which controls the world's diamond market and has offices in Mbuji-Mayi, held talks with Mr Kabila at the weekend.

In rebel-controlled Kisangani, the new governor said Mr Kabila's authorities were al-

money went straight into pockets." said Yagi Sitolo, referring to the Mobutu years during which Zaire's mineral wealth was used as the personal bank of Mr Mobutu, his relatives and

Last week American Mineral Fields (AMF), the Canadian mining company, opened the first diamond buying office in Kisangani to be licensed by the rebels. "I firmly believe Kabila is going to make a better Zaire, without corruption," said Joseph Martin, an AMF direc-

generals.



Anarchy sweeps capital after marchers beaten

Ed O'Loughlin Kinshasa

Parts of Kinsbasa descended into anarchy yesterday after sol-diers used tear gas and armoured cars to disperse thousands of students demonstrating in support of the beleaguered Prime Minister, Etienne Tshisekedi. You see what these people

are, the Zairean army, com-plained student Leblane Mangala, after one desperate charge. "The people are marching for democracy and they fire gas and bullets. They don't shoot at Kabila [Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader]."

In the poor quarter of Makotge, burning barriers were erected and cars hijacked by mobs that often seemed to have little direct political motive for their actions.

Journalists and foreigners were intimidated or even stoned, and here and there crowds set about victims and began beating them.

Not to be left behind by civilians or their comrades in the South, Kinshasa's garrison did a little light looting of its own. One American radio journalist had her tape recorder and shoes stolen by soldiers during a charge on the marchers. Another lost his watch. Yesterday's unrest in Kin-

shasa stems from the hurried reappointment of the veteran opposition leader, Mr Tshisike-di, as prime minister less than one week ago. Hailed as the one credible figure who could unite Kinshasa's bickering élites and lead them into peace talks with Kabila, Mr Tshisekedi at once outraged Mobutu Sese Seko's immediate family and alienated many within his own by announcing that he intended to dissolve the unelected but wellpaid parliament and appoint a cabinet containing no Mobutist ministers. He also proposed to reserve six cabinets seats out of ZAMBIA Democratic Forces for the Lib-nationals at least.

eration of Congo-Zaire, an of-fer rejected by the rebels.

At the weekend, angry MPs announced that they would sack announced that they would suck their new premier on Monday. Many young Kinshasans did not agree, and managed to keep parliament closed yesterday. Taking refuge in the central Memling Hotel, pro-Mobutu parliamentary leader Jean Marie Elesse Bokohoma admitted the MR had underest mitted that MPs had underestimated public hostility. The street does not agree with the parliament," he said.

Yet Mr Tshisekedi failed to capitalise on his supporters' victory yesterday. A large chanting crowd that gathered outside his home was told first that the leader would address them. then that he was too busy with the meeting. One of his newly appointed "ministers", Christian Badibangi, told the rapidly thinning crowd to prepare instead for a big public demonstration

For all the tension and violence in Kinshasa yesterday. many foreign observers still doubt that the Zairean people have the will and the unity to topple the dictatorship, which most detest. While some of those marching yesterday were ardent Tshisekedist- he is a man of peace, Kabila a man of blood", bawled one student clinging to a looted truck - others were just as inclined to hand the crown to Kabila.

Asked what they would do if Marshal Mobutu simply ignored their calls for his resignation, many students were nonplussed: "We are waiting for Kabila", was a common response. But with Mr Kabila's nearest forces hundreds of miles away, Kinshasa seems fated to endure a long, chaotic wait. Across the river in Brazzaville around 2,000 troops from Britain, France, Belgium and the United States are standing by to make sure it is not too

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Netanyahu tells US: I'm not for turning

Rupert Cornwell
Washington

The meagre hopes of rescuing the Middle East peace process took a further blow yesterday with a blistering speech here by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, in which he vowed to press on with his settlements policy, promised no change in the status of Jerusalem, and ruled out any concessions in the face of Palestinian "terrorism".

Addressing a pro-Israeli group immediately before his crucial White House meeting with President Clinton, Mr Netanyahu sounded truculent in his determination to press ahead with the Har Homa housing project in mostly Arab east Jerusalem, which has sparked violent daily clashes since Israeli contractors began work last month on the 6,500-house development.

house development.

Why not? Mr Netanyahu in effect told the American Israel Public Affairs committee here. "We re allowing contractors to build in Har Homa ... that is our right, our obligation." And he mocked Palestinian opposition to the scheme: "This simple act has been described as terrorism of the walk-up rentals, terrorism of the condominiums." His audience roared with laughter.

As for a meaningful gesture from the Israelis to reduce tensions between the two sides, that seems equally improbable.

that seems equally improbable.

The Prime Minister noted he had been urged to make concessions "in return for a real crackdown by the Palestinian authority on the terrorist organisation". But this would be "pure and simple surrender to terrorism ... we are being told to pay for the privilege of not being killed ... we are not going to do that."

Meanwhile the Arab conviction that when push comes to shove the US will always support Israel will only have been hardened by Vice President Al Gore's assertion to the same pressure group that "during this complex period" the Clinton administration would not let Israel down. "I join you here as an ally," Mr Gore proclaimed, to riotous applause.

tween the two sides was "a work in progress", Mike Mc-

Curry, the White House spokesman, said, noting that a

senior Palestinian delegation

was already in Washington and

would meet the President this

to take a direct intermediary's

insisting that only Israelis and

Palestinians themselves can settle their differences. That casts doubt not only on Israel's

notion of a repeat of the 1978

Camp David Summit that led

but even on an early visit to

the Middle East by the new

Secretary of State, Madeleine

If anything, the US reluctance

Not surprisingly the mood was sombre in the Oval Office as Mr Clinton and Mr Netanyahu sat down to talk yesterday, with neither man apparently willing or able to make a major move. In remarks to reporters beforehand Mr Clinton spoke only of the need to halt terrorism, breathing not a word about the temporary halt to the new settlement scheme that Washington had been hoping to secure, but which the Israeli Prime Minister seemed to rule out in advance.

Mr Clinton also poured cold water on talk of a second "Camp David" summit, between Mr Netanyahu and the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, moderated by the US. It was important not to "jump the gun," Mr Clinton said. "We have to have the right conditions and understanding before we go forward again."

Caught between Mr Netanyahu's intransigence and his reluctance to offend the politically influential US Jewish lobby, Mr Clinton seemed last night to have few options, despite arguments from all sides here that only if the US "knocks heads together" can what remains of the peace process be salvaged.

Instead, Washington yesterday was playing down expectations of real progress from the Clinton/Netanyahu session. The rebuilding of confidence be-

No compromise: Benjamin Netanhavu addresses the Voices United for Israel breakfast in Washington

Photograph:Ron Edmonds/AP

Algerians braced for new wave of terror

Algerians are facing 58 very bloody days. They know the statistics all too well because – exactly two months before last year's constitutional referendum – the country's armed Islamists went on an orgy of killing in the villages outside Algiers. Now, two months before the partiamentary elections – in which the largest opposition party, the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), cannot run – the slaughter has begun again.

Last week, the FIS, which was declared illegal after its success in 1991 elections, urged voters to boycott the polling booths on 5 June. And that, as one Algerian journalist commented coldly, convinced many that blood would soon run again.

They were right. As the death toll in the latest and most obscene of Algeria's civil war bloodbaths climbed to 84 after the mass killings south of Algiers, there is a mood of chill-ing indifference in the streets of the capital. The daily newspapers are not short of details: at least 15 men, women and children decapitated in the village of Amroussa, some with chainsaws; another 52, including more women and children, left with their throats cut or doused in petrol and left to burn to death, in Thalit; more dead in Harbil, Bouira and Sidi Naamane. In Algiers, however, the talk is all about the "100 terrorists" killed by security forces in the great mountain battles outside Tizi Ouzou.

It is a mirage unlikely to last. How many times has the government told the people that the "war against terrorism" is almost won, that the last "terrorists" - official nomenclature for members of the Islamic Armed Group (GIA) - are putting up a last effort before liquidation?

Many of those killed in the weekend slaughters were relatives of the the so-called self-defence units which the government has armed in the countryside to fight the guerrillas. Yet again, therefore, their wives and children and parents are paying the price for their allegiance to the "pouvoir".

According to some reports,

Islamist rebels raise stakes in fight to topple government.

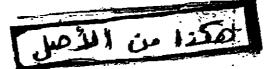
Robert Fisk reports

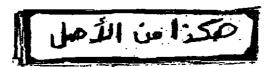
the Islamists staged a false attack to draw pro-government militiamen out of their villages – leaving their loved ones at the mercy of the killers. Only one local Algerian reporter, from the daily *Liberté*, reached the site of a massacre – at Amroussa – where survivors told him that Antar Zouabri, who took over the leadership of the GIA when Jamal Zeitouni was killed last July, personally led the attack.

Jamal Zeitouni was killed last July, personally led the attack. True, the army and air force are continuing their campaign against the guerrillas in the Kabylie mountains; hence the stories of "100 terrorists" killed. But despite the use of armour and helicopter gunships, the military has apparently still not been able to penetrate all of the densely forested gorges of the mountains where the GIA has definded itself with mines and booby-traps. And the FIS is still claiming that the GIA has been infiltrated by the government and that the dreadful deeds done in the name of Islam are in part perpetrated by the authorities in an attempt to turn the people against the guerrillas.

This explanation fails to address the fact that each new atrocity saps government credibilitywhy would Algeria's military intelligence service wish to destroy the claim by its own generals that they can crush "terrorism"? But it also remains a fact that remarkably few Algerian reporters have been able to visit the scenes of such horror to investigate the incidents. No journalist, it seems has reached Thalit, Harbil or Sidi Naamane. Thalit, indeed, is barely a village, a mere collection of semi-derelict houses in the countryside that now have - if the figures are to be believed - scarcely a single surviving inhabitant.







internationa

Danes court China's fury and shame the EU by speaking out

Teresa Poole Peking Tony Barbe

The wrath of China found a new target yesterday when Den-mark decided to press ahead with a United Nations motion in Geneva later this week, condemning Peking's human rights record. "We still hope Demnark will think twice and will think seriously about the consequences of such action," said the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Shen Guofang.

"If it persists, I can say that relations between China and Denmark will be seriously



damaged in either the political or the economic and trade areas ... If Denmark really insists on doing this, it will end up as the biggest loser."

Denmark stepped into the breach at the weekend after France effectively vetoed a joint European Union motion censuring Peking at the UN Human

Rights Commission in Geneva. The Danes showed no sign yes-terday of buckling under pres-"We have made our decision," said Niels Helveg Petersen, the Danish Foreign

Not for the first time, the EU's failure to adopt a united

address China's human rights the 15-nation bloc's ability to pursue a common foreign polrecord. icy, while exposing differences

France was primarily re-sponsible for killing off the between the EU's bigger and ioint EU initiative. But Gersmaller states. To the dismay of many, Italy and Spain expressed those who want the EU to sympathy with the French view speak coherently, and with one voice to the world, a clear rift that dialogue is better than confrontation. "It is more imhas now opened up among the

olutions which have no success. said Germany's Foreign Minis-

ter, Klaus Kinkel. However, the Dutch Foreign Minister, Hans van Mierlo, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, said the EU would be guilty of double standards if it took a soft line towards China but was tough on smaller countries which were less important in commercial terms. This is not compatible

> rights," he said. Every year since 1990, Chi-na has garnered the support of enough Asian neighbours and developing countries to block the annual attempt by the EU and the US to consure its record. Irrespective of the change in position of up to four European countries, this year's motion would have had little chance of passing.

with the universality of human

But the Geneva meeting is seen by Peking as an annual public torment, and China has lobbied furiously behind the scenes to thwart the move. The fact that the EU no longer has a consensus on the motion will have delighted the Chinese government and dismayed the United States, which yesterday praised Denmark for sticking to its principles.

the way it argues its case on human rights, though without offering any actual concessions. By stressing the opportunity is no cens for dialogue, and highlighting in China.

recent amendments to its criminal and civil laws, it has managed to blunt the impact of the harsh jail sentences it gives dissidents and the absolute restriction on independent political thought in China.

Peking's willingness to threaten countries, such as Denmark, with economic repercussions has proved divisive.

President Jacques Chirac is due in Peking in May, and France is hopeful of finalising various business contracts during the state visit.

In a sign that China is pleased with France, the French De-fence Minister, Charles Millon, received a warm reception in Peking vesterday from the Prime Minister, Li Peng. Chinese television quoted Mr Li praising France for refusing to co-sponsor the UN resolution.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry yesterday laid on a panel of three Chinese human rights scholars to brief the foreign media on what they portrayed as big improvements in human rights in China since the economic reforms started in 1979. While it is probably true that Chinese people enjoy more freedom now than at any time since 1949, the persuasiveness of the argument is limited.

Few Western specialists Over the past year, China has accept China's insistence that it become more sophisticated in has no political prisoners, that accept China's insistence that it dissidents such as Wang Dan and Wei Jingsheng are "com-mon criminals" and that there is no censorship of the media

Albania force cracks Italian PM's coalition

Andrew Gumbel Rome

In the bad old days of revolvingdoor coalitions and policy decisions steeped in corruption, it used to be said that Italy did not have a foreign policy. Finally, this most unlikely of regional powers has found an international role - as head of the multinational peace-keeping force being sent into Albania but the enterprise is being un-

dermined by that old Italian

bugbear, political instability. Yesterday, after a weekend of futile arm-twisting and backroom haggling, the small but feisty far-left party Rifondazione Comunista confirmed that it would vote against the intervention force in parliament. The decision is not a catastrophe, because Rifondazione is not a part of the centre-left governing coalition and its votes alone are not enough to scupper the operation.

But it is still bad news for Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, who normally relies on Rifondazione to make up his fare state, falling back instead majority in the Chamber of Deputies and was looking for the broadest possible crossparty support to send Italy's 2,000-odd peace-keeping troops confidently on their way.

dangerous crack in the architecture of his government. In-

Prodi: 'Interests of country

come before my feelings'

stead of concentrating on the mission itself, he will have to resort to some low political tricks to ensure it gets off the ground at all. "Of course I'm fed up with this," Mr Prodi confided in a newspaper interview. "But the interests of the country come ahead of my personal feelings. The root of the problem lies with the cards Mr Prodi was dealt in last April's general elections. Although his Olive

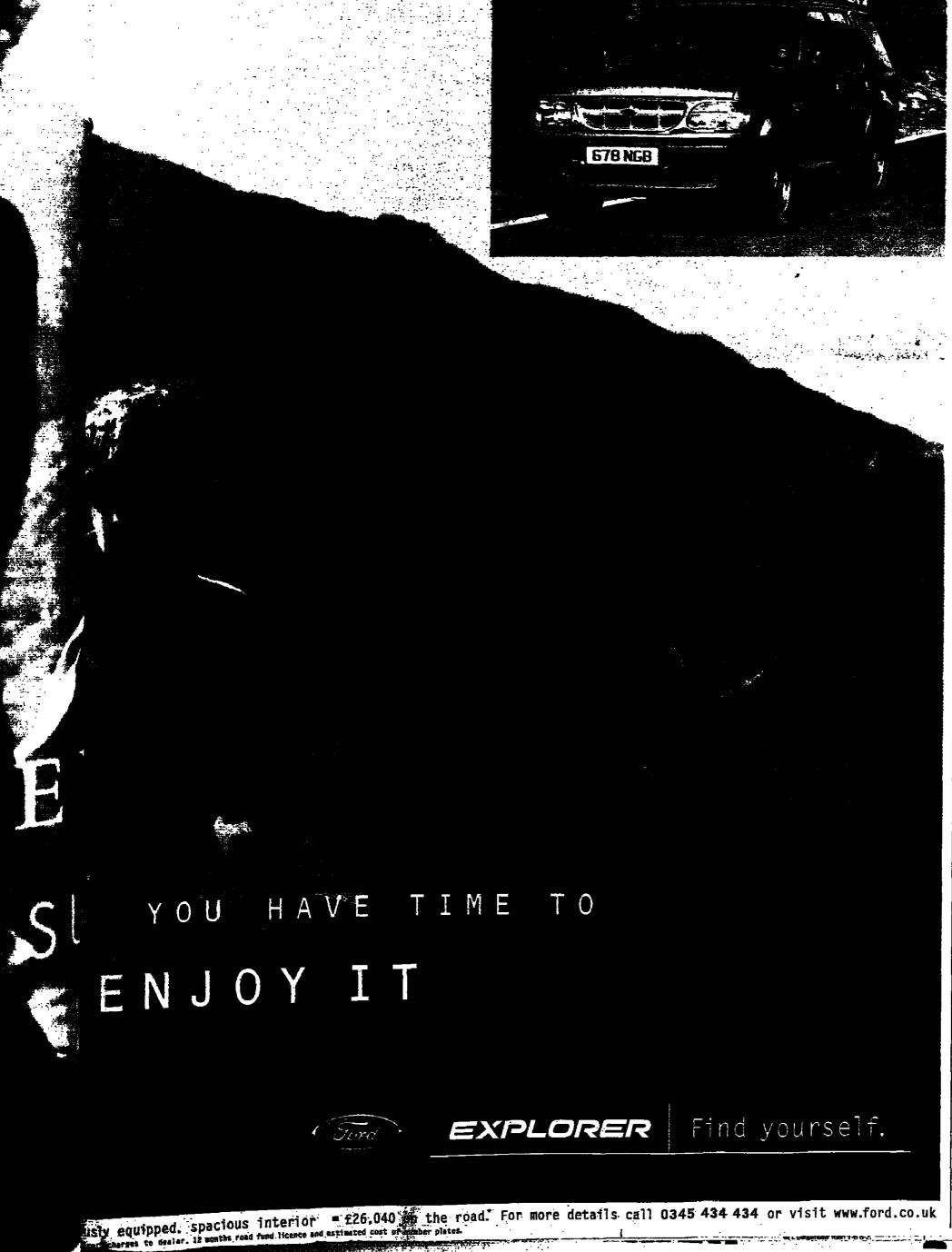
fell just short of 50 per cent in the lower house and so was forced to recruit Rifondazione as a peripheral coalition partner.
Unluckily for Mr Prodi. Rifondazione's leader. Fausto Bertinotti, is an adept master of the art of political brinkmanship - always pushing for that last little concession and forever threatening to withdraw his support if he does not get it.

Tree coalition was handed a clear majority in the Senate, it

That explains why Italy's swingeing budget cuts, aimed at qualifying the country for European monetary union on time, have not touched the welon accounting tricks. That largely explains, too, why Mr Prodi and his ministers have often looked so weak - they never know when Mr Bertinotti is go-

ing to jump on them next.
The Albanian mission is safe Instead of a foreign policy tri-umph, Mr Prodi is faced with a hecause it has the support of most of the opposition, which may abstain in parliament but certainly won't vote against. But Mr Prodi's government looks less secure, what with various centrist groups clamouring for a rethink of the coalition and the main leftwing party, the PDS, threatening to dissolve parliament if a clear governing majority cannot quickly be reestablished.

The irony is that all this has been sparked by a desire to bol-ster political stability, albeit in a neighbouring country. Asking Italy to bolster the stability of anything can never be a particularly good idea; but with Mr Bertinotti loving the power of his pivotal position, it looks an



David Arkell

David Arkell was a writer whose understanding and love of French culture made him the most sensitive biographer of Jules Laforgue and of Alain-Fournier to have published on either side of the Channel.

His Francophilia was partly determined by his background: his grandparents came from the Channel Islands, and his mother, Elizabeth, a wellknown actress, was educated in France and England, as was her brother, the music critic Edwin Evans. Arkell's father, Reginald, was a prolific journalist, novel-ist and lytic writer, and between his parents' theatrical connections and his uncle's friendships with Stravinsky, Poulenc, Picosso and Diaghilev, Arkell enjoyed a stimulating childhood.

He visited France frequently in his youth, and went to live in Paris before the Second World War as a sub-editor for the Continental Daily Mail. His first book, a popular guide to the city, called Paris Today, was published in 1938 and remained in print for many years.

When the war broke out, Arkell tried to escape from Paris on a bicycle, but was apprehended by the Germans and interned for four years in the barracks at Saint-Denis. from the top floor of which he could see the "not very evoca-tive Eiffel Tower". After the liberation of Paris, he came back to England and continued to work as a staff and freelance journalist and translator in London, and in 1958 published a novel set in the South of France, Portrait of Mimosa. In 1957 he had married a young Frenchwoman, Maguy Anglade, who was the fashion buyer for the trend-setting 21 Shop in Woollands. Knightsbridge. The marriage was tragically short-lived, as Maguy contracted cancer and died in 1962 at the age of 31. Arkell, an intensely private man, spoke of the period very little, and never remarried.

His career took a decisive turn when he lost his newspaper job and began to think of writing a biography of Jules Laforgue, the 19th-century symbolist post whose work was highly influential on T.S. Eliot and other modernist writers. While he was researching the

life, Arkell worked in close association with the editors of Laforgue's Complete Works. which were then in preparation. His obsessive interest in his subject and tenacity over following up even the most unpromisi leads paid off when Arkell discovered the identity of Laforgue's English wife, Leah Lee, and found her grave in Teignmouth. It was a significant contribution to Laforgue schol-arship, although Arkell was both too modest, and valued too highly his position as an outsider, to press his own claims as a scholar

After the publication of Looking for Laforgue in 1979, Arkell turned his attention to Henri Alain-Fournier, the author of Le Grand Meaulnes, who



died in action in the First World War. His book, Alain-Fournier: a brief life (1986) was another extraordinarily intense and absorbing biography, demon-strating Arkell's gift of sympathy and imaginative engagement with his subject.

He had a remarkable mem-

ory for small and telling detail, and was especially sensitive to the importance of place in writers' lives. Walking around London with him was always memorable; every street, church or hotel had its literary connection or bizarre secret, from Tissot to Whitman to Zola to Katharine Mansfield. For the past 20 years, Arkell had been contributing a series of biographical articles to the literary quarterly PN Review which showed his encyclopaedic knowledge of literary London

which were collected in Ententes Cordiales (1989) give some idea of his approach: "Zola and the Lost Hairpins", "Villiers Comes to Town", "The Candlesticks of R. Radiguet", "When the Com-mune came to Fitzrovia". His last article for the magazine,

titles of these charming pieces,

"Stendhal as a Lion in Love", published in December, reveals how the climax of Stendhal's long-maturing relationship with Guilia Rinieri coincided with the beginning of the composition of La Chartreuse de Parme. It shows Arkell's typical concern not with what writers may be trying to hide or reveal of them-selves in their work, but of what motivates them in a subtler way. As a biographer he never set out to prove or disprove a personal theory, but to get as clear and factual a picture as possible, and let it tell its own

story, or not. David Arkell was extraordinarily generous with his time and advice, and entered into the spirit of other people's research as energetically as his own. His tiny flat in Covent Garden, which retained an air of Sixties chic, was the most delightful destination. He would emerge from the minute kitchen with a tray of tea and cream cakes in a gold-ribboned patisserie box and sit down with relish to discuss the latest news from 1875, essentially a romantic in his life as well as his work.

Claire Harman When I returned from a Japanese prison in 1945, writes Ronald Searle, David Arkell had recently returned from four years in a German prison camp in France. We met at the offices of the magazine London Opinion. David had found a job there as a sub-editor and I was trying to sell them bread-andbutter drawings. We immediately became close friends.

He seemed to have quite a cluster of girlfriends in the theatre having been more or less born in a green-room. As a consequence he always had a batch of first-night tickets in his pocket. He would generously keep one for me and, as a newcomer to the Big City, it was very exotic to be present in David's and ingenuity as a sleuth. The erudite company at the open-

ing of Oklahoma!, or the pre mière of the season of Roland Petit's Ballets de Paris.

The friendship that began then continued uninterrupted, at the rate of a letter or two a week after I left England until, recently, he suffered the massive stroke that ended his life.

David was always amused that Poetry Review called him their "literary sleuth". He revelled in wandering off to Greno-ble, for example, in the hope of discovering what Stendhal had for breakfast on the Tuesday before he sent his boots for repair. Or he would nose around the rue Monsieur le Prince in Paris, hoping to spot a mislaid graffi-ti by Jules Laforgue, in case he might want to bring his biography of him up to date. He was thrilled when Alain-Fournier's bones were finally identified and decently laid to rest.

David's intellectual curiosity and his investigations into the "Avant Siècle" French literary field, his great love, belonged to an almost lost era of peaceful, unhurried scholarship in which it is as important to battle over the precise placing of a comma in a translation of Laforgue's word-juggling poetry as it is to look out of the bedroom window of Stendhal's Aunt Elizabeth to see what she might have seen of the Place Granette in Grenoble.

David had what might be called a quiet authority. That, allied to the nose of a determined bloodhound and a very readable style, placed him in the front rank of that special band of biographical researchers who enrich our knowledge of great writers through an unquenchable thirst for hidden detail.

For over half a century David would set off on his adventures of literary discovery from his base in Endell Street with all the sustained excitement and enthusiasm of an ethnologist seeking out an as yet unrecorded tribal custom. For 50 years we met and exchanged letters. It was a great privilege for me to be admitted to his special world.

David Arkell, journalist, translator and biographer: born Weybridge, Surrey 23 August 1913; marrie 1957 Maguy Anglade (died 1962); died London 3 April 1997.



Sugmura (right) as the Jealous mother in Hanaoka Seishu no tsuma ('Hanaoka Seishu's Wife') in Tokyo; 1990

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Haruko Sugimura

Haruko Sugimura was a great stage and screen actress who gained world-wide fame in classic films by the masters of the Japanese cinematographic art – Akira Kurosawa, Yasujiro Ozu, Mizoguchi and Keisuke Kinoshita, among many others. She was also a "sacred monster" of the revitalised new Japanese stage in the style known as igkei, strongly influenced by realistic European drama.

Sugimura was born in Hiroshima, but her parents died when she was very small, and she was adopted by a building contractor who was a shareholder in the Kotobukiza Theatre in that city. Her adoptive mother was a theatre fan, and from an early age took her to watch performances of kabuki, bumaku (puppet theatre), shimpa (a new form of kabuki using both male and female players) and visiting western bal-let and opera. Hardto was spellbound by Payloga in The Dying Swan bill even incre in

terfty. So her early ambition was to become an opera singer. Her adoptive parents encouraged her to go to Tokyo and sit the examination for the Tokyo Ongaku Gakko (now Tokyo University of the Arts) but she did not pass. She stayed

a year in Tokyo attending a preparatory music school, and took the examination once more. She again failed, and returned to Hiroshima. There she found a post as substitute music teacher at a girls' school, where one of her colleagues sang the praises of the new-style theatre at the Tsukiji Shogekijo in Tokyo. In 1927, Haruko resigned from the school

and went to Tokyo again, pretending that she was going to study music. But instead she presented herself at the Tsukiji Shogekijo and was taken on as a student actress, though she was warned she must overcome her strong Hiroshima accent. Almost at once, she got a nonspeaking part, playing the organ with her back to the audience in Narukichi Fuitmori's drama.

fell sick, she took her small part, and for the first time spoke on: stage. The play had a two-month run, and her mother discovered her daughter's deception. Her reaction was to close her house in

Hiroshima and go to Tokyo to help Haruko further her career. At first, Haruko played minor parts in Chekhov and Ibsen, and kept on appearing until, after a production of Maxim Gorky's Lower Depths, the theatre closed in 1929. But a new acting career started for her in 1932, when she appeared in the movie Namiko, talkie" made by the Oriental Movie Company, with a veter-an actress Yaeko Mizutani.

In 1933, she married a Keio University medical student five years her junior. The new theatre company had by now re-opened as the Tsukiji-za, playing modern dramas until it, too, closed down in 1936.

The year 1937 was a very important one for the per Tapanese theatre and for Sarahua. In September, the west known pressed by the great soprano haiku poet Mantaro Kubota. Takamine describes a sequence Minra Tamaki in Madame But- and the modern playwright Ku- in which. Sugimura, keeping nio Kishida founded the Bungaku-za (Literary Theatre), and Sugimura was invited to ioin the company. Kishida had studied drama for two years with Jacques Copeau in Paris, and incorporated many of his revolu-

> tionary theories in *shingela*. At the same time, Haruko continued her movie career in the Shochiku Company's Asakusa no hi ("Light in Asakusa") directed by Yasujiro Shimazu. În 1938, Kubota wrote Shigatsu jin ("End of April") in which she starred as Otsune. There followed many good parts in plays by Jules Renard and Georges Courteline: then Pagnol's Marius and Fanny brought Sugimura into evergreater prominence, and she began to be regarded as a promoter of new, progressive drama. Their theatre was the

only one to go on playing right through the Second World War. It was during the war, in 1941, that a Bungakuza playwright wrote for Haruko a play she was to be associated with all her life: Kaoru Morimoto's Onna no is-Kanoio ("She"). When an actress sho ("One Woman's Life") Seishu's Wife") about the first April 1997.

about the daily life of a woman from the age of 16 to 66. She eventually played in it nearly a thousand times, taking it on tour all over Japan, and to China and

She was invited by a movie di-

rector, Siro Toyoda to appear in Uguisu ("The Bush Warbler") in 1938, in which she played an uncertified midwife arrested for illegal practice but redeemed by delivering a pregnant woman's baby in prison. It seemed that realism could go no further. In 1940 she appeared in Kojima no haru ("Small Island Springtime"), a rather grin tale of a woman afflicted by Hansen's disease (a form of leprosy), and it was shown as too of the and it was chosen as top of the annual list of "10 Best Movies". This remarkable, almost docu-

young actress, now famous, Hideko Takamine, who wrote about it is a statiobiography Working Lie Daly") in 1980. her back to the camera to hide her deformed features, is taking down washing from a bamboo pole, and yet manages to express emotion so well that Takamine realises for the first time what true acting can be.

mentary style film by Toyoda

was seen by an impressionable

After the war. Haruko Sugimura's career flourished on both stage and screen, and then on television, where she appeared in numerous plays. From 1950, she acted in an amazing variety of parts in-cluding, in 1953, her first big hit, Blanche Dubois in Tennessee Williams A Streetcar Named Desire. She was Gertrude in Hamles, and in 1956, Yukio Mishima wrote for her one of her best parts as Asako Kageyama in Rokumeikan. It was a big success, followed by his Nettaiju ("Tropic Tree") in 1960.

Other Japanese authors wrote for her: Tsutomu Minakami's Yamahida ("A Fold In The Mountains") and Uminari ("Sea Sound"). Sawako Ariyoshi wrote an amazing documentary play for her, Hanaoka Seishu no isuma ("Напаока

operation under general anaes-thetic by Dr Hanaoka who did the first operation for breast cancer in 1805 - 40 years before the use of ether at Massachu-setts General Hospital in Boston. The play depicts the struggle between the doctor wife and his mother to take par in the first operation. The subject of the play, in which Sugimura was outstanding as the jealous mother, caused a sensation. She was playing in a revival of it in February this year. but had to leave the cast because

of her illness, pancreatic cancer. Haruko Sugimura's movie career was a long one. Yasujiro Ozu chose a shingeki actress for the first time when she played in his Banshum ("Late Spring") in 1949, then Bakashu ("Late Autumn") in 1951. Her greatest triumph was in Tokyo Menu-gatari (Tokyo Story, 1953) in which she plays a domineering beauty parlour owner, memorable for a prim, sour, disapproving expression. She appears in several other notable Ozu movies, ending with Samnu The Taste of Mackerel") in 1962, his last film. She also appeared with other great directors: in Masal Kobayashi's Kwaidan ("Ghos") ly Tales", 1964), and Akira Kurosawa's Akahige (Red Beard, 1965). She won innumerable awards, but in 1995 refused the greatest of all, the Order of Cultural Merit, saying she would not feel comfortable on stage if she accepted a prize

she felt she was unworthy of Her motto might be this line from One Woman's Life: "Nobody chose this way for me - I chose it for myself", which made me recall my own line: "I follow no path - the path follows me." She said her favourite time was when she was waiting in the wings for the curtain to go up. She has made her last curtain call, a great lady of a universal drama, life itself.

James Kirkup

Haruko Sugimura, stage and screen actress, born Hiroshima 6 January 1909; married 1933 (one adopted daughter); died Tokyo 4

Jack Kent Cooke

In a place of politicians, lawyers league sports teams. He start-and bureaucrats mostly paint- ed on the west coast in Los An- ington's unofficial monarch. ed varying shades of grey, Jack Kent Cooke stood out like the Washington monument in a dime store. One reason was his ownership of the Washington Redskins football team, the one successful and universally loved institution in a city riven by failure and racial segregation. More important, though, he brought unpredictability, flambovance and excitement wherever he went.

His life of 84 years spanned a continent. Born in Canada of parents who had emigrated from South Africa, he abandoned university to become a door-todoor encyclopaedia salesman. Quickly he teamed up with another emerging magnate called Roy Thomson (later to own the Times newspapers in Britain), and by the late 1940s the pair had gained control of a chain of newspapers and radio stations.

But Canada could never satisfy so competitive and ambitious a man. He moved south to the United States, and began a second career in the business for which he will be best remembered - owning major

geles, acquiring first the Lakers basketball team and then the Los Angeles Kings hockey franchise. He was an innovator too in sports broadcasting, inventing the closed-circuit broadcasting to theatres of major boxing events which began with the first Ali-Frazier heavyweight championship fight at Madison Square Garden in 1971.

But ever restless, Cooke moved again in the mid-1970s. this time to the East Coast and Washington, where he already owned a 25 per cent interest in the Redskins. Soon he became sole owner and as the team flourished, so did Cooke's celebrity. He could be rude, charming, vengeful, cantankerous, pompous or breathtakingextravagant - often several simultaneously. In a city where getting on the right guest-list is the supreme social skill, no invitation was more coveted than to join Cooke in the owner's box at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium for a Redskins game, and rub shoulders with senators, Congressmen, ambassadors and members of the capital's media

If that was not enough for the

gossip columns, Cooke's romantic career provided extra spice. His first marriage to Jeannie Carnegie, his childhood sweetheart from Canada, lasted 42 years, and its conclusion in 1979 earned him a place in the Guinness Book of Records for the then largest ever divorce settlement, of \$49m. His second marriage survived 10 months, his third just 10 weeks. In 1990 he married Mariene Ramallo Chalmers, a vivacious Bolivian half his age, who



eral prison for cocaine offences. They divorced four years later but remarried in 1995, and Marlene was with him when he died of a heart attack in the library of his Washington home. Jack Kent Cooke, in short, was a man who lived life to the

had served 3 months in a US fed-

hilt. "I am in a state of ecstasy." he declared in 1983 after his Redskins won the first of three Superbowls, "Never mind that nonsense about euphoria and so on. This is sheer unadulterated, uncompromising ecstasy." Politicians, lawyers and bureaucrats never talk like that. Washington will be drabber Rupert Cornwell

Jack Kent Cooke, businessman, sports team owner: born Hamilton, Ontario 25 October 1912; married 1937 Jeannie Carnegie (one son, and one son deceased: marriage dissolved), 1980 Jeanne Maxwell Williams (marriage dissolved), 1987 Suzanne Martin (one daughter; marriage dis-solved), 1990 Marlena Ramallo (marriage dissolved), 1995 Marlena Ramallo; died Washington DC 6 April 1997.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

ALASZEWSKI: Danuta Maria, peace-fully at her home on 21 March, much-loved widow of Micczyslaw, lov-ing mother of Eva, Barbara and Andy and mother-in-law of Andy, John and Helen, Celebration of ber-ife, 12 Wipm, Friday 11 April, Beck-enham Crematorium, Beckenham, Flowers and shrubs to be planted in her memory to H. Copeland, 9 Brom-ley, Road, Beckenham, BR3 SNT MASON: Timothy, musician died in St. MASON: Timothy, musician, died in St Bartholomew's Hospital on 4 April 1997. Dearly beloved husband of Jan. lather of Nathaniel and Lucy, and brother of Nicholas and Benedict, Fu

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS please telephone 0171-293 2012 or fax to 0171-293 2016.

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needs the Queen's Life United at Bayes Gauses.
Ham, bot Battalawa Soots Gasala mounts the
Queen's Canand, in Butchleam Palace, H. Saim,
band payraked by the Gregorier, figures.

Forthcoming marriages Mr R. C. Williamson

and Miss J. E. Harley

The engagement is announced be-tween Robin, younger son of Mr Walter Williamson and the late Mrs tson and the late Mrs Williamson, of Lowestoft, Suffolk, and Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Basil Harley, of Great Horkesley, Essex.

Birthdays Mr Tony Banks MP, 54; Mr Hywel Bennett, actor, 53; Sir Andrew Bow-den MP, 67; Mr Graham Burton, ambassador to Indonesia, 56: General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, 73: Mr Julian Lennon, rock musician, 34; Air Commandant Dame Alice Lowrey, former Matron-in-Chief, PMRAFNS, 92; Miss Carmen McRae, jazz singer, 75: Mrs Mary Moore, former Principal, St Hilda's College. Oxford, 67: Mr Garth Mor-rison, chairman, East and Midlothian NHS Trust, former Chief Scott, 54; Miss Vuginia O'Brien, actress and singer. 76; Sir Michael Sachs, High Court judge, 65; Mr Charles Saunders, former film director, 93; Mr Lan Smith, former prime minister of Rhodesia, 78; Mr Alec Stewart, cricketer, 34; Sir Thomas Thomson, physician and gastroenterologist, 74; Miss Dorothy Tutin, actress, 66; Miss Vivienne Westwood, fashion designer, 56; Mr lan White, MEP, 52.

Anniversaries

Births: Claudio Merulo (Claudio da Correggio or Merlotti), organist and composer, 1533; Philip IV, King of Spain, 1605; Cornelis de Heem, still-life painter, 1631; John Claudius Loudon, horticulturist, 1783; Diony-

sios Solomos, poet, 1798; Sir Fred-erick William Burton, painter, 1816; erick William Burton, painter, 1816; August Wilhelm von Hofmann, chemist, 1818; Karl Evers, pianist and composer, 1819; Asger Hamerik (Hammerich), composer, 1843; William Henry Welch, pathologist, 1850; Edmund Husserl, philosopher, 1859; Harvey Williams Cushing, neu-rosurgeon, 1869; Albert I, King of the Belgians, 1875; Walter Comolly, ac-Belgians, 1875; Walter Connolly, ac-tor, 1887; Sir Adrian Boult, conductor, 1889; Mary Pickford (Gladys Smith), actress, 1893; E.Y. "Yin Harburg (Isidore Hochberg), lyricist and librettist, 1898; Ilka Chase, novelist, playwright and actress, 1903; Sonja Henie, skater and actress, 1912. Deaths: Caracalla (Marcus Aurelius Antonims). Roman emperor, 217; John II, Byzantine em-peror, killed by accident 1143; Marie-Jean Antoine-Nicolas Caritat, Marquis de Condorcet, mathemati-cian and revolutionary, 1794; Domenico Gaetano Maria Donizetti, composer, 1848; Elisha Graves Otis. inventor of the safety lift, 1861; Baron Roland Eotvos, physicist, 1919; Edwin Cannan, economist, 1935; Adolph Simon Ochs, newspaper proprietor, 1935; Sir William Henry Hadow, author and musicologist, 1937: Vaslav Fornich Nijinsky, dancer and choreographer, 1950; Pablo Ruiz y Picasso, painter and sculptor, 1973. On this days Florida was discovered by Lives. was discovered by Juan Ponce de Léon, 1513; the Prince of Wales (later George IV) was married to Car-oline of Brunswick at the Chapel Royal, St James's, 1795; the steamship Great Western began her maiden voyage to New York from Bristol, 1838; the Battle of Albara was fought, when Lord Kitchener cap-rured the Mahdist leader Mahmud, 1898; the Anglo-French agreement called the "Entente Cordiale" was

The second of th

became prime minister, 1908; over 200 people were drowned after the er near Cairo, 1912; a treaty was signed between Colombia and the United States agreeing control of the Panama Canal Zone, 1914; King Zog of Albania left his country, following the Fascist invasion, 1939; the final mbly of the League of Nations was held, 1946; in Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta and five others were convicted of being involved with Mau, 1953. Today is the Feast Day of St Dionysius of Corinth, St Julia Billiart, St Perpetius of Tours and St Walter of Pontoise. Today is also the beginning of the Hindu New Year.

Lectures

National Gallery: Gabriele Finaldi, "Drawings (ii): Drawings by Ribera, Lo Spagnoletto", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Christine Riding, "Techniques of Deco-rating 18th-century Furniture (i)".

British Museum: George Hart, "An-cient Lebanon: Byblos and the Cedars", 1.15pm. National Portrait Gallery: Catharine MacLeod, "Henry VIII and Henry VII by Hans Holbein", 1.10pm.

Nicholas Hinton

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Nicholas Hinton CBE will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, on Wednesday 7 May 1997 at 3.30pm. All are welcome, and those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets to: The Rector's Secre Room 7, 1 Little Cloister, Westmin ster Abbey, SW1P 3PL, enclosing a signed, 1904; Herbert Henry Asquith uts will be posted from 28 April.

No jurisdiction to force caesarian on mother Re MB; Court of Appeal (Lady

Saville, Lord Justice Ward) 26 March 1997. Where a competent woman,

with the capacity to decide, refused medical treatment even though that refusal might result in death or serious handicap to the child she bore, or her own death, the courts had no jurisdiction to declare such treatment lawful.

The Court of Appeal gave reasons for dismissing an appeal by MB against the decision of Hollis J to grant a declaration that it would be lawful for her doctors, if they thought it necessary, to carry out a caesarian section upon her, including the insertion of needles for the purposes of anaesthesia, because she was incapable of consenting to or refusing treatment.

The appellant, who was about 40 weeks pregnant, was examined by a consultant obstetrician who found that the foctus was in the breech position. She was told that a vagi-nal delivery carried about a 50 per cent risk to the child of death or brain damage. She agreed to have a caesarian section but later refused to undergo anaesthesia by way of injection, since she was fright-

LAW REPORT

8 April 1997

sought and obtained the court order after the appellant had gone into labour, had again agreed to a caesarian section, but had again refused to consent to anaesthesia. Her appeal was heard and dismissed the same night. The following morning she consented to the operation and to anaesthesia, and a healthy boy was delivered. Robert Francis QC for the appellant; John Grace QC for the hospital trust: Michael Hinchcliffe, solicitor, es am ісиз ситіае

Lady Justice Butler-Sloss said

that the basic principles underpinning the proper approach to the issues raised were that in general it was a criminal and tortious assault to perform physically invasive medical treatment without the patient's consent; that a mentally competent patient had an absolute right to refuse to consent to medical treatment, even where that decision might lead to his own death; and that essential emergency medical treatment could be undertaken even if no consent had been given through lack of capacity.

Those principles should be

considered in an urgent situaened of needles. The hospital

tion such as a caesarian section case, and the court should, in approaching the crucial question of competence, bear in mind the following factors. There was a rebuttable pre-

sumption that every person had the capacity to consent to or refuse medical treatment. A competent woman with that capacity might, for rational or irrational reasons or no reason at all, refuse to have medical intervention even though the death or serious handicap of the child she carried or her own death might result. In that event the courts had no jurisdiction to declare medical intervention lawful, and the question of the woman's best

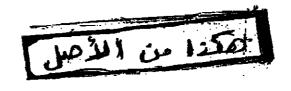
interests did not arise: Irrationality in the present context connoted a decision so outrageous in its defiance of logic or accepted moral standards that no sensible person, applying his mind to the question, could have arrived at it. A person lacked capacity if some impairment or disturbance of mental functioning rendered them unable to decide whether or not to consent to treatment.

Temporary factors, c.g. confusion, shock, fatigue, pain or drugs, might completely crode capacity, as might panic induced by fear.

Applying those principles, the appellant had been temporarily incompetent because of her fear of needles, and the doctors were free to administer the anaesthetic in emergency, if that were in her best interests. Best interests were not limited to medical best interests, and it was clear that the appellant was more likely to suffer significant long-term damage if the baby died or was born handicapped than from the administration of the anaesthetic.

For the time being at least doctors should seek a ruling from the High Court on the issue of competence, and should try to identify a potential problem early and bring it before the court before it became an emergency. The hearing should be inter partes and the mother represented. The Official Solicitor should be notified, and act as amicus curiae where not acting as guardian ad litem. There should be evidence as tocompetence and, if possible, background information about

Kate O'Hanion, Barrister Commence of the Commence of th



the leader page

Why Mr Hamilton should stand and fight

t would be in the interests of democracy for the Tatton Conservative Association to vote tonight to adopt Neil Hamilton as its candidate in the election. Then the people can decide the "sleaze" issue. Is Mr Hamilton guilty of no more than minor "misjudgements", as he insists, or has he, like Tim Smith, put himself beyond the ethical standards

expected of our representatives? In all probability, judged on that basis, the voters of the formerly safe Tory Cheshire constituency will turf Mr Hamilton out. Not only would that outcome give most of the rest of the country great satisfaction; it would also result in the election of an extraordinary MR Martin Bell, the white knight who charged for the cause of a moral foreign policy in Bosnia, would sit as an independent member (a touchingly old-fashioned concept, but no worse for that) with a mandate to raise ethical standards in public life.

Mr Bell's decision to stand is to be applauded unreservedly. There are only two conceivable objections to this choice of an anti-sleaze candidate. One is that he is a journalist, a member of the only profession that is about as loathed and distrusted as politicians. But he is a foreign correspondent, which most consumers of the public prints seem to think is something quite different, either from

change – and

so do Tories

a former parliamentary colleague

of the Prime Minister, to tell him

that in my view a clear majority of

a change"; in the 1997 general election I could not and would not

actively support the Conservative

Party, as I have consistently done

It is now timely to stress that we British preach - and claim to

hence should recognise that

over the reins of office, as has happened during the last century. This consideration has become

blurred since 1945, because the

forming a government, was an avowedly Marxist-Socialist one,

socially divisive and dedicated to

with aims incompatible with, and

creating a class-warfare society

erosive of, our nation's historic

respect for individual freedoms.

Now this has all changed.

pluralism does not merely mean

acceptance of the historic concept that, from time to time, one or

for over half a century.

the doorstepping tabloid hacks or the ratpacking Westminster lobby. So, though not perfect, Mr Bell is more acceptable than most journalists would be.

The other objection is that Mr Bell is guilty of inflating his own ego. The answer to that is that anyone who wants to be an MP must be touched by some measure of egotism. The issue is the degree of derangement, and whether it is a madness that serves the general good. On those tests Mr Bell, a crusading member of life's awkward squad, more than passes muster.

It is not only that Mr Bell is the right man: the whole crazy venture is very much to be welcomed. When Jon Kelly, the Labour candidate, first announced his willingness to stand down in favour of a cross-party candidate, the Conservatives dismissed it as a "gimmick". Indeed, it seemed like a good idea dreamt up by Tony Blair's adept and professional PR team, which would keep the spotlight on the sleaze issue for another few days. Now that a credible cross-party candidate has emerged, it is obvious that there is more to it than a mere media stunt. The historic resonances of an independent candidate standing with joint Labour and Liberal Democrat support are too strong to dismiss as a gimmick. It was significant that the two parties chose to field



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-298 2000 / 0171-845 2000 FAX 0171-298 2435 / 0171-845 2485

Peter Mandelson and Lord Holme to speak for Mr Bell on television on Sunday night: they represent their parties' coalitionist wings.

And as a ploy, this one has worked. It has embarrassed the Prime Minister excruciatingly. Yesterday it was possible almost to feel sorry for him as he insisted yet again that Mr Hamilton was a matter for the Tatton Conservative Association. And Mr Bell? Well, Mr Bell was a matter for Mr Bell. If Mr Major had been asked about education policy, no doubt that would have been a matter for Tatton Conservative Association, too.

It is less easy to feel sorry for Mr Hamilton, but he has been made to look a fool. Not satisfied with speaking only through his wife, Christine, he yesterday chose to embarrass himself further by speaking through Bill

Roache, the Coronation Street actor. The spectacle is becoming so bizarre that there is a danger of losing sight of the central issue. It is this: Mr Hamilton is accused of accepting cash to ask questions, an accusation he denies. He must be presumed innocent until he is proved guilty but John Major must be presumed guilty of deliberately postponing Sir Gordon Downey's quasi-judicial process, which could have decided the issue before the election. Nevertheless, Mr Hamilton has admitted tax evasion and failing to register financial interests, including free stays at the Paris Ritz. On these grounds alone, Mr Major should have refused to endorse him as the Tory candidate.

The Labour-Liberal Democrat ploy has also worked in another sense Yesterday the polling company ICM, which had carried out a poll in Tatton last week, re-interviewed nearly 300 voters to ask them how they would vote now that the identity of the anti-sleaze candidate was known. It indicated that an overwhelming majority would vote for Mr Bell. The ICM poll also suggested that if Mr Hamilton stood down, the Tories would hold the seat easily.

Unfortunately, this ought to be enough to ensure that the Tatton association dumps him tonight; but local associations are not always wise in their judgements.

The Conservatives, especially those trying to persuade Mr Hamilton to go, argue that sleaze is a distraction from the "real" issues. They are wrong. Sleaze is a real issue. It matters a great deal to the health of our democracy. It may prove to be a fair summary of 18 years of Tory rule that, in the end, the Conservative lost partly because they could not get any

other argument across, they were so distracted by sleaze.

If people do not trust their politicians, then democracy will be eaten away by cynicism. So join us in an appeal to the Tatton Tories. Keep Mr Hamilton. Make him stay and fight. Let us have a full debate in this election campaign about standards in public life. And may the worst man lose.

Let them eat cheddar

For too long the French have been deprived of one of civilisation's finer points, namely mature cheddar. Roquefort, brie and vacherin are all fine in their way (and it is not only children who get addicted to La Vache qui Rit) but they remain ... soft. As part of a promotional effort on behalf of British food, the French are being invited to try some-thing different. This is surely what free trade in Europe ought to be about - the expansion of choice and the refinement of taste. Political philosophers can ponder that old dictum of de Gaulle's about the impossibility of governing a country with 300 different cheeses. What form of governance should suit a country where the consumption of sage Derby starts to match that of Pont L'Évèque?

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •



British ar widows

编线线 掷

s fraction: Not

(M.)

Hamm

with, he is not a Marxist and does not lead a Marxist party.

The present performance of our national economy may well now be on the right road. Yet it is pertinent to recall that, as Kenneth Clarke has very recently admitted, what we have had to endure in the interim has not been due just to a world recession,

but arises from wrong policies the Torics pursued in the late Eighties, culminating in Black Wednesday in 1992, involving us in the largest ever single debasement of our currency. New Labour" may well be divided on national constitutional issues, and about our future relationship with Europe. But there is a general national consensus that centralising trends have to be reversed in favour of

more devolution; arguments are

only how best to achieve this.
As regards Europe, it is within the Conservative Party the deepest fissures exist. Mr Major continues to stress that Britain has to be "at the heart of Europe". So far he seems to interpret that role as a readiness to inflict a series of cardiac arrests within the EU, using a veto whenever he feels so inclined, to maintain a façade of unity within the party.

No one in their senses wants a change of government just for the sake of change. Yet certainly the lory party as now constituted and directed needs, in its own best interests as well as those of the nation, to have the opportunity to undertake severe heart-searching in order to regain a new identity and unity of purpose, before it can hope to take office again. SE FREDERIC BENNETT Aberangell, Gwynedd The writer was a Conservative MP, 1951-1987

Sir: The wish of Labour and the Liberal Democrats, supported by The Independent, to run a bulldozer through out constitution is potentially the gravest threat in this icciant.

What is it in the left-leaning intellectual that motivates him to meddle where wiser minds with a true sense of history and continuity fear to tread, and to produce

something un-British and continental, for that is the logical end if proportional representation is realised? What makes them devalue their country's history and institutions so?

Transforming the House of Lords into a state-appointed quango, paving the way for the probable break-up of the United Kingdom, extending majority voting in Europe is potentially catastrophic for the unity and stability of the country. Potential Conservative defectors should stop, think and put and end to these dangers. RUSSELLACLARKE

Sir: As a first-time general election voter, I read with interest Michael Streeter's article on the "Big Mac generation" (1 April). While there is clearly disillusionment among young people, I would dispute his claim that the Conservatives will be

the beneficiaries.
Like most first-time voters, I can't remember much about the last Labour government, but the effects of 18 years of Tory rule are all too apparent. In employment, education, training and wider issues like crime and democracy the Conservatives' record speaks for itself - an endless list of wasted potential. Young people are the future, but many feel they have no future. The Tories have repeatedly failed young people and should never be trusted again.

A Labour government will make a real difference to young people's lives - by introducing a national minimum wage to end poverty pay, by getting 250,000 under-25s off benefit and into work and by changing the way our country is CARA PEATTIE Grangemouth, Central Scotland

How footpaths fell to the plough

Sir: Christopher Padley (letter, 3 April) is too kind to highwaydistinbing landowners in his statement of the law on the plonghing of bridleways. Cross-field footpaths are similarly "protected" and, in the case of any subsequent disturbance, routes must be restored within 24 hours, not 14 days.

How it came about that historic

highways could be destroyed. ecosystems extinguished and country walks and rides rained in this manner is an interesting study of history and politics. Up to the Second World War it was an offence to plough any highway (footpath, bridleway, vehicular road etc) unless the landowner could show that a "customary" right to plough existed - normally very difficult. This protection was eroded during the war when regulations empowered the Ministry of Agriculture to authorise

the ploughing of highways. After the war the Hobhouse Committee (1947) recommended that this practice continue ploughing forbidden unless authorisation obtained. However in keeping with the then-prevailing agricultural encouragement policies this recommendation was ignored. The 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act in effect legitimised the ploughing of cross-field bridleways and footpaths by permitting it in the interests of "good husbandry".

The Rights of Way Act 1990 reversed this presumption in favour of disturbance by permitting cross-field footpaths and bridleways to be disturbed only where it is "not reasonably convenient to avoid

disturbing the surface". Even then the line of the highway must be defined and the surface made good for walking, riding or cycling on within 14 days of the first disturbance in any agricultural cycle and within 24 hours of each subsequent disturbance. Unfortunately the vast majority of landowners simply carried on as before, obliterating cross-field routes regardless of whether they could avoid them and then failing to comply with the restcration

How many local authorities fulfil their statutory duty to consider whether or not it is "reasonably convenient to avoid disturbing the surface"? None in my experience. Assertive action in this respect would transform the countryside. NICK JEFFREY Princes Risborough. Buckinghamshire

Good science is no mere '-ology'

Sir: In her scattergun attack on "-ologies" (4 April), Suzanne Moore lumps mysticism together with science. She confounds the use of the scientific method to answer trivial questions with its use to answer important ones. She regards regulation and information

provision as the same approach to risk-control, when they are policy alternatives. She includes psychologists among the experts she accuses of ignoring the unconscious when, in fact, they are the ones who study its contribution to our behaviour. Good journalism like good science, requires discrimination; we need less of some "-ologies" (graphology, astrology) but more of others

(good psychology, good

neurology).

The study showing effects of environmental stimulation on brain and behaviour is good behavioural neuroscience demeaned by a whimsically misleading reference to the animals in the more stimulating environment as "middle-class". Sometimes attempts to render good science palatable for public consumption result in its appearing as trivial as bad science. This makes judgemen of the true quality and relevance of the work harder for the lay person. Nevertheless, journalists should be competent in such judgements. **NIGEL HARVEY** Reader in Experimental Psychology University College London

Sir: It is all jolly fun to hoot "that's bleeding obvious" when research

confirms one's preconceptions; but research quite often shows up the truth as being something different from the bleeding obvious. How are we to know in advance which

will be which? K HAGGETT Market Rasen. Lincolnshire

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independera.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

Liverpool thanks Aintree crowd

Sir: On behalf of the people of the City of Liverpool I would like to thank all the many thousands of visitors who displayed such tolerance and forbearance during the exceptional events at Aintree this weekend.

We were pleased to be able to help with accommodation but could not have achieved so much without assistance from a host of other organisations, agencies and above all, the many residents who so generously - and typically - opened their own doors to help.

I hope all those who travelled to Merseyside for the Grand National will not be put off returning and look forward to seeing them here again nëxt year under happier FRANK PRENDERGAST

Liverpool City Council Liverpool

We can help the people of Iraq

Sir: Felicity Arbuthnot (letter, 1 April) paints a bleak picture of life and death in Iraq, where UN sanctions remain firmly in place. She details the awful price being paid by innocent people and we share her frustration and anger.

The situation is bleak, but there are people trying to do something about it. Last week Care International was able to deliver water pumps to Najaf and Kufa. These two cities, both in southern Iraq, will now have their shattered water supplies rebuilt and will receive clean water for the first time in over six years.

Public health has deteriorated markedly and Care has been obliged to supply emergency food to hospital patients and expectant mothers alike, in an attempt to provide a nourishing diet to the most vulnerable. Both programmes were funded by the British government's Overseas Development Administration

Glimmer of hope

in shop doorway

Sir. By offering homeless city-dwellers the chance to register on

doorway" as their address (report,

5 April), city councils may have solved the "benefit trap" faced by

many of Britain's cardboard-city

The problem of homelessness leading to inability to claim benefit with which to pay rent on a

property, without whose address it

is not possible to claim the benefit,

is well known. If "shop doorway" is

then it ought to be sufficient to provide the crucial step away from

sufficient for enfranchisement

Call a truce in

the sleaze war

Sir: Martin Bell's decision to stand

at Tatton ("Martin Bell to take the

flak in sleaze war against Hamilton", 7 April) is understandable but still flies in the

face of the principle of natural

justice that a person is innocent

The best way forward would be

for Mr Hamilton to agree to stand aside with both the Liberal

Democrats and Labour, and let

"sleaze" report. Then the seat

fairly and squarely.
JONATHAN YOUENS

Sideup.

could be contested by all parties

Martin Bell hold the seat in good

faith pending the publication of the

until proven guilty.

PHIL MANFIELD

the electoral roll, with "shop

We would obviously prefer to be working with the people of Iraq to build a secure long-term future, but as long as sanctions are being used as such a crude weapon against an innocent population, the least we can do is help them survive. WILL DAY Chief Executive

Care International UK London WC2

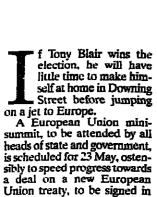
Survival of the fittest words

Sir: I imagine many of your readers sympathise with P R Millest (letter. 4 April) in his irritation at such phrases as "zero tolerance".

However, English is a living means of expression, and the principle of evolution will apply: life tries every variation; if a variation can survive, it will. Most of our present-day verbal variations will die out; those few which are useful will survive.

PR Millest must be grateful that he displays a characteristic of living things - sensitivity to stimulus - and that he is not a couch-potato. JOHN RIVETT Reaminster.

Sir. Hurray for P R Millest. Let us also do away with "prior to" and "in excess of" and get back to "before" and "more than". DAVID I MASSON Leeds



June in Amsterdam. Those present, however, will be interested in more than simply probing Mr Blair on treaty compromises. They will use the occasion to congratulate him on seeing off the Eurobashing Conservatives, while taking the chance to assess his own European credentials.

As always, it will be Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, who will set the agenda of the meeting. Fresh back from his annual Easter slimming holiday in Austria, and fired up by his decision to stand for a fifth term, Mr Kohl will be eager to see whether a New Labour government shows any real desire to lend a hand in building greater European union. Jacques Chirac, the French president, will no doubt proffer some rambling thoughts on the future. Others meanwhile, may sit more quietly, assessing Mr Blair's own qualities as potential leader on the European stage - as an alternative leader, perhaps, to Chancellor Kohl.

The word in many capitals is that Mr Kohl, under pressure at home, is also faltering in his role as chief European visionarv. There is said to be a "leadership vacuum" in the union. Flip-flop tendencies from Mr Chirac have weakened French input into the Franco-German engine, which is stalling. "It is an opportune moment for a new kind of leadership to step on to the European stage," said one senior Scandinavian diplomat. "Blair could be the counter-weight to Helmut Kohl. We need a strong alternative voice. And we certainly don't have one at the moment.

Tony Blair has already made clear that he wants to "set the agenda" and "to lead" in Europe. To present himself as a counter-weight to Kohl would certainly be a clever piece of UK electioneering - better a counter-weight than a poodle. But if Mr Blair is to play such a role he must first show he can exercise positive influence within the union, which no British Prime Minister has ever been able to do.

The idea that a British prime minister could become a of EMU, sums up the problem



Could Tony ever be as big as Helmut?

Labour says it wants to set the agenda in Europe. With Chancellor Kohl's vision for the EU out of date, argues Sarah Helm, a prime minister Blair would have his chance to offer an alternative

sounds fanciful to many European old-timers.

Britain's Continental partners have seen false dawns over the English Channel before. As long ago as 1960 there was talk that if Britain were finally to join the community it could eventually take a leading role. But how, ask the Continentals. can Britain hope to lead in Europe when its interest has always been to divide the continent? Tommaso Padoa Schioppa, the distinguished Italian economist and architect

counter-weight to Helmut Kohl more sympathetically than dollop of this scepticism is also influence, but could be side. But (rightly or wrongly) peace some. "The UK's old historical reflex of insecurity is embedded deep in British chromosomes the capitalist club of Europe. and is triggered whenever the Continent tends to unite. It goes back to Philip II or to Napoleon. Maintaining the division of the Continent has been one of the main sources of the UK's strength."

The doubters also point out that even if Mr Blair is himself a convinced European, he would be restrained by British public opinion, whipped into new frenzies of scepticism during Conservative rule. A large

to be found in the Labour Party, traditionally scornful of

Tony Blair views himself as a counter-weight to Kohl is taken as evidence in some quarters that he fails to understand how the European engine operates. The Franco-German motor has always been, and, in many eyes, always will be, the prime driving force. The motor was first ignited by the tough, pragmatic acceptance in Bonn and Paris that only by joining in intimate partnership of mutual depenlency, would the two countries be able to avoid further war.

To alter the direction of this engine, which is set on a fixed course of ever deeper integration, would clearly demand a lot of alternative horsepower and some very convincing alternative goals. Blair has yet to prove he is possessed of either. Pierre Muscovici, a leading French socialist, says: "For a Briton to lead on the European stage he would have to be more unambiguously pro-European than anyone else." Furthermore, many believe that if Britain does not join the single cur-rency, it will not only lose more peace and economic prosperity. for new ways of countering

what the election of Tony Blair could bring in the long term. Both Tony Blair and Robin Cook, shadow Foreign Secretary, have said enough to suggest that fundamental attitudes to Europe could start to change. There is a clear rejection of the little Englander, offshore-island vision of the future. Mr Blair's willingness to give some ground on the veto suggests that he may not always insist on the paramount sovereignty of Westminster as stubbornly as the Conservatives. In opposition, Labour leaders have been busy networking among socialist leaders on the Continent, building allies in a way the Conserv-

es have never done. rdinary Europeans are looking for new answers, as shades of Euro-scepticism spread across the Continent. There was a time when most Continental Europeans were happy to place faith in the political élite who forged ahead with integration in the name of

lined from Europe emirely. has come to seem a dated The fact is, however, that objective for Europe. And just like the British electorate, economic prosperity is hard to Germany, where 4.7 million are unemployed.

Increasingly, European people are demanding that the decisions of distant technocrats are explained and justified. They want to know what the European engine's "end sta-

Helmut Kohl, meanwhile,

can only provide the same old

answer: more and deeper union. What new ideas are proffered by the old guard such as "flexible" multi-speed decision-making - are often just a sign that Europe is losing unity of purpose. Jacques Chirac has offered none of the impetus provided by François Mitterrand before him. At the Commission a plodding Jacques Santer sits in the seat once occupied by Jacques Delors. Chaotic Italy cannot step into the breach. Spain is not a big hitter. Smaller memher states are becoming restless, and, with the prospect of imminent enlargement to the east, they are looking around

German hegemony. "Nobody stands up to Kohl. Everybody just waits on the Chancellor's word," was how one Brussels of power in Europe today.

If Blair is to develop a girth

to counter that of Chancellor

Kohl, it certainly cannot happen by the time of the Amsterdam summit in June, which is likely to be a botched affair. Early on, however, he can set a positive tone by avoiding easy traps, such as overblown trans-Atlanticism, which, ever since De Gaulle, has always infuriated the Europeans. He should watch his language - no Majorstyle "game set and match" comments after Amsterdam. In fact, Mr Blair might consider giving every cabinet member free French lessons (a language he already speaks proficiently) and a course in consensual politics. Silly hats on trips to Brus-

sels should be banned Mr Blair should, of course. fight for British interests - all other countries fight for theirs. He could pay a visit to the Bavarian office in Brussels to see how one of the powerful German Länder fights tooth and nail for its rights.

By the launch of the British

presidency in January 1998 Mr Blair should be starting to shape his vision. Criticism there must be. It is part of the culture of complacency in Brussels that to criticise Europe is to be labelled "Euro-sceptic." But Blair must chose his targets carefully, unlike the Conservatives whose attacks last year on the European Court of Justice - the most mature of all the institutions - backfired on them. Let him prowl, instead, around the bowls of the Council of Ministers in Brussels, where he will see faceless officials from national capitals carving up untransparent and

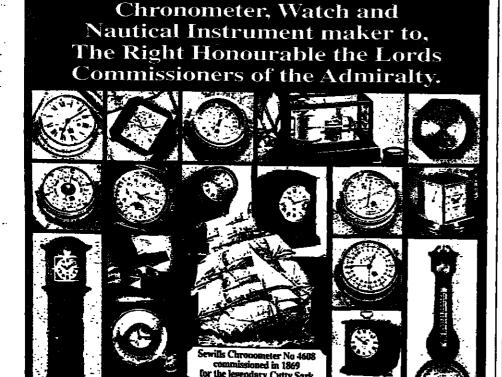
e should not just bemoan the "democra-Ltic deficit" but attack it for what it is - Europe's greatest failure of all. He should puncture the endless theological discussions about European defence, and direct Europe's foreign policy to areas of the world where the union has real historical responsibility and political influence- the Middle East being today's glaring

And criticism should always be presented in the context of positive, long-term goals. The great failure of today's European leadership is the failure to set out goals which match the needs of the times. The problems facing Europe are monumental: unemployment, social equality, discrimination, democracy, to name but some. Although, since Maastricht, the goal of a fully federal Europe has largely been discarded, British ideas of tailoring Europe down to a simple free-trade area are evidently unrealistic.

Given his own commitment to constitutional reform in Britain, Blair might take a lead in the debate on constructing a constitution for Europe. He could seriously tackle the lack of accountability in European decision-making, by bringing new ideas for greater oversight by national parliaments and the European Parliament, as well as exploring devolution of also take a lead in ensuring that the absorption of new member states from the east brings results which are constructive and not chaotic.

Turning Britain from Europe's pariah into Europe's partner will demand not just vision about Europe's future, but an ability to shift British attitudes, too. The public have been left confused and scarred by the Conservatives' battles with Europe, and education about the benefits as well as the problems is needed more than ever.

In the end, however, if Blair is to stand a chance of making his voice heard on the Continent, he will have to sign up to the single currency, either at the launch or very soon after. Perhaps only when Britain is part of the new reality of European economic and monetary union - the biggest step ever taken on the Continent towards irrevocable unity - will Britain's old historical reflex to divide Europe be tamed, allowing a British prime minister a chance



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Loudon, horniculturist, 1783; Dinny Sened, 1914; Herbert Henry Asquith ets will be posted from 28 April.

to write down in an acceptable way, but it is an whole word. "casnal".

"Casual" is not quite the For a start, as you must know, it has at least two functions. One is as a misprint for "causal". Whenever a sub-editor sees

Sorry? Can you spell that, please? than Independence Day. Right. We now come to a changes it automatically to "casual", just as the word "Bermudian" tends to be changed (wrongly) to

"f it hadn't been for my son, I would never last week have come across a word that it is impossible to spell.

Impossible to spell satisfactorily, that is. Can you think of a word that cannot be spelt satisfactorily? Apart from Popocatepetl? And millennium"? And all those other words which always look wrong no matter how you spell them? Like ipecacuanha"? Seems unlikely, doesn't it?

I had never come across a word which I could not think of a spelling for. Before my son put me on the track. Well. I already know of one word that is impossible

abbreviation, so not really a It is the shortened form of simple word it seems to be.

that it is merely a case of a sub-editor taking his revenge But "casual" can also refer to sex and violence and clothes, and in the context of clothes ("casual jacker", "casual wear") it is sometimes shortened in a joky sort of way to a word that sounds a bit like "cadge" or perhaps "cash", but is actually if anything "cazh". See what I mean?

"discrete" tends to be altered

shouldn't be risking annoying

my sub-editors so early in a

piece, and if you find any puzzling things later on in this column, you will know

to "discreet". Mark you, I

There is no generally accepted way of writing that sound down, so that word is never written down. Right. We now come to

last week when my son took me to the cinema. He is nine years old and he wanted to see Mars Attacks. Mars Attacks is a new joky science fiction film by Tim Burton,

which also happens to be a



Miles Kington

"12" certificate. I explained

to my nine-year-old that

nine-year-olds cannot attend "12" films, and that there is a very good set of reasons behind the grading of films. He agreed but still demanded to be taken, so I took him. Despite one awkward moment (when he whispered out loud at the cinema cash till: "Don't forget to pretend I'm 12, Dad!"), we got in without trouble and left without being depraved. It was a very funny and imaginative film and I am glad I saw it rather

day or two later when there was an interview with filmmaker Tim Burton on BBC radio, which I listened to with interest as a new convert to Burton's films, and somewhere during the interview, the questioner asked Tim Burton if it was true, as he had heard, that Burton sometimes did without a script and storyboard and got his actors to improvise on screen. "Sure," said Burton.

Many of my performers have an improv comedy background, and quite a few of the scenes in some films are not written down - they are actually improv'd." This shook me. I am used to "impro" or "improv" being used as an abbreviation for

improvisation, in a theatre or comedy context, but I have never heard either of them being used as a verb before. What's the point? There is a perfectly good verb 'improvise" already, so why say that an actor can improv" a scene? Even in jazz, where people improvise

the whole time, they tend not

to use the word - the

parlance for "improvise" is not "improvise" but "busk". I have never heard the word "improv" or "impro" used by

a jazz artist. But there is Tim Burton saying that some of his scenes are improv'd, and I say this. The reason you should not use the word is that you cannot write it down. You could write that "some of the scenes are improved", but you should not, because that means something else, namely, that some of the scenes are made better. And to improv is not necessarily to improve.

So how do you write the past tense of this peculiar new crb to "improv"? Do you inaccurately write improv'd", as I have tried? Do you write "improvved"? Do you ban the use of the word "improv" as a verb at all, just to avoid problems like that?

Or do you just say: firhsgqo bdnsk kkkwo ngingo oooow doftoonn5e8f8gijs d- <i <y& <ÿ& <v& <y& <y& <y& <

Sorry. Sub-editors at work ■

لقكذا من الأصل

Death at Heaven's Gate can shake your faith in God

The mass suicide in San 'Diego 10 days ago of 38 members of a cult known as Heaven's Gate was a disturbing event. What are the conditions in which cults pro-

Looking at the United States, one finds the most striking aspect is that the country has developed a remarkable diversity of faiths. While 19 out of 20 Americans believe in God, a higher proportion than in western Europe, they practise their faith through more than 2,000 different religions. In the area of New Mexico where the Heaven's Gate cult was based, before moving to California last October, there was also a Hindu retreat, a centre for Russian mysticism, a surrealist enclave, a Sufi Foundation for those who practise Islamic mysticism, and New Age encampments for what locals call "burned-out

people".

The reasons for this riotous growth in religions are clear enough. Unlike European countries, the United States was founded on principles that specifically excluded the notion of a state religion. In American history there has been no national church and thus nothing comparable to the Church of England, or to the position of the Catholic church in France before 1789 and in Italy and Spain until recent times.

Immigrants into the United States brought their varying religious traditions along with their baggage; indeed, some made the journey precisely to

escape persecution in their native lands. As a result, a religious market- deities of the Greek pantheon lost their attracplace has developed in which all the world's major faiths compete for members with each other and with minority beliefs. There is choice. When Europeans lose their faith, often nothing fills the void. Americans seem to shop around. In these circumstances, cults, however strange, can flourish. Anything goes. About 100 of America's religions have an interest in flying saucers. Members of the Heaven's tility goddess, Cybele, were cunuchs, as were Gate group believed that tucked in behind the eight of the male members of Heaven's Gate. Hale-Bopp comet now streaking across the sky

in this way the US already fulfils the Vatican's most dire forecasts. In a new analysis, Cardinal Ratzinger, who is responsible for faith and doctrine, says that we have entered an age of relativism. Whatever is proposed as a universal truth or a norm of general application. is, he argues, viewed as dogmatic, authoritarian and contrary to two criteria claimed as infallible - tolerance and pluralism. Such a development weakens the message of Christ-

ianity, which is, by definition, universal, If the Catholic Church, with its doctrines and sacraments, has only a relative value, the Cardinal asks, is not Christianity reduced to a type of humanism? On this reading, Jesus Christ becomes merely a religious genius among others, a view reinforced by the contemporary interest in the Jesus of history (of which AN Wilson's recent books on Jesus and on St Paul are a current example). In these circumstances, notes the Cardinal, to announce one's faith in the divinity of a single man becomes



liferation of different blends of

Christian belief in Latin Amer-

ica, Africa and Asia, by the

decline in regular attendance in

the West, by the sheer gap between the Church's teaching

and today's morality, and by the

growing claim among the faithful for autonomy of conscience

and behaviour.

In describing the age of relativism, the Cardinal is surely right. The United States is showing us the future so far as

religious belief is concerned.

Immigrant communities in

western Europe have also

brought their religious with

them and, so to speak, have

opened up the market. Budd-

hism has a growing appeal. Surveys show that young people are sceptical of traditional

Christian teaching. Charismatic, or "happy clappy" versions of established religions are relatively successful. There

is also a growing interest in

astrology.
In this light, fundamentalism is a defence against plurality. Indeed, cults themselves can be

as strict as a monastery. Adher-

dinal's phrase, in an age of rel-ativism, is not new. In the

ical trust in genuine democracy. Costed, sensible and popular

goals, if only ... Among liberals, you hear

the strong wish that a danger-ously large Labour landslide

might be tempered by a goodly

slab of Lib Dem seats, guaran-

tors of radicalism to stop

Labour slithering further into the mud of compromise on

The irony is that just as they have found a valuable ideolog-ical role, outflanking Labour on

the radical wing, they appear to be in trouble. Playing piggy-in-the-middle for all those years -

left of Tory, right of Labour -

was a miserable squeeze. Now

at last circumstances and Paddy

Ashdown's boldness combine

to offer a bright streak on the

political spectrum. And yet,

alas, the outlook may be grim. At the weekend their poll

rating fell to a dismal 9 per cent

- a blip maybe, or maybe not. According to MORI, intending

Lib Dem voters are the softest

and least tenacious supporters

of all three parties. They are good citizens, far more likely to

go out and vote on the day than

either Labour or Tory voters -

but when asked how strongly

they support their party, only 9

per cent of them are enthusias-

tic enough to say their support

is Very Strong (while 21 per

cent of Tories and 29 per cent

of Labour describe their sup-

port as Very Strong.) Asked if they might still change their vote, 37 per cent of Lib Dem

supporters said yes, compared

and 18 per cent of Labour.

every issue. If only ...

Andreas Whittam Smith

The age of relativism is deeply unsettling for those of us in the Church of England, or in the

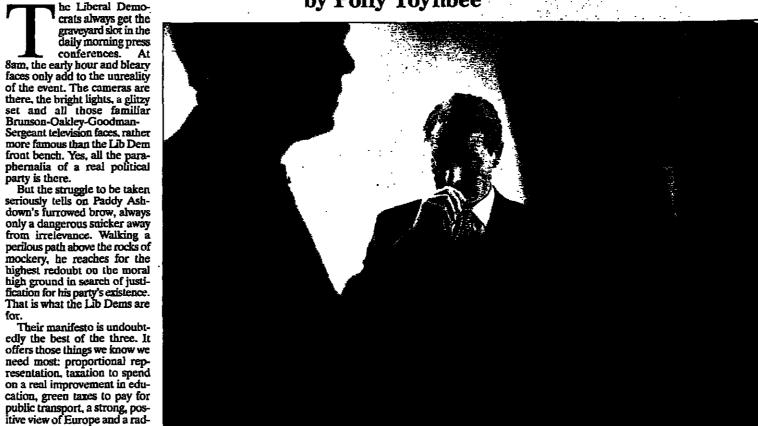
ents to Heaven's Gate were not allowed to watch television or read anything but the Bible. At one point members had to wear gloves at all times and communicate through written messages, with speech limited to "yes", "no" and "I don't know". Roman A former member is quoted as saying that the group had a Catholic procedure for every conscious moment of life". To find oneself, in the Car-Church

ancient world, as the Olympian tion, cults multiplied. AN Wilson points out that religions (except Judaism) were mutually tolerant of one another. Worshippers were eclectic, moving from one shrine to another without the slightest feeling of inconsistency. And, as a matter of fact, we can find examples of most of the features of Heaven's Gate in the ancient world. The priests who served the ferwhose castration had been carried out, accordwas a spacecraft that would take them to the level above human". ing to the San Diego police, with satisfactory surgical skill. The followers of Orphism regarded the body as a prison or tomb, since imprisoned the divine spark: likewise the leader of Heaven's Gate wrote that "bodies were merely the temporary container for the soul". As one of the cult members remarked on the farewell videotane, bodies are like automobiles and when they finally "wear out and conk out ... you ... go and get another car ...
I mean that's all we're talking about. It's not

It is a big deal for everybody else, for rela-tives and friends and for the rest of us. Regrettably, adults are free to give away all their possessions, cut every family tie and join a cult, They commit no crime. Society can only look on, helpless. The age of relativism is also deeply unsettling for believers in the established reli gions, for those who are members, as I am, of the Church of England, or of the Roman Catholic Church. It is one thing to have doubts, to waver between belief and complete disbelief. It is quite another to be faced with almost a sign of "fundamentalism" or of mix in match versions of religion and with a "fanaticism". Cardinal Ratzinger concludes by decline into humanism, which has all the

The finest party gets the dustbin vote

by Polly Toynbee



The Liberal Democrats deserve better than the muddled souls who vote for them. They seem doomed to failure. And yet ...

ing candle of liberal idealism through these dark ages. Not so, sadly. Lib Dem voters seem to have remarkably little in common with their leaders or their manifesto. Take Europe. Now surely Lib Dem pro-Europeanism has been loud and clear, a heart-warming clarion

call in the growing Euro-sceptic mood of the times. Aston-ishingly, according to MORI, more Lib Dem voters want to withdraw from Europe than either Labour or Tory voters. What on earth does that mean?

higher social class than Tory and Labour supporters, with more ABs and fewer DEs. A higher proportion of the read-ership of this newspaper votes Lib Dem than of any other paper (20 per cent), and in religion they are rather more nonconformist than the other two parties. On one issue they are in tune with the Lib Dem leadership: many more of them make education their priority than voters for other parties.

with only 33 per cent of Tories But how radical are they on traditional liberal issues? Not at all. Take the monarchy, for

per cent of Labour and 11 per cent of Tories. On caning in schools, a surprising 64 per cent of Lib Dems want it brought back. On abortion, a poll of women showed that Lib Dems were more anti-abortion than either of the other parties: 27 per cent of Lib Dem women want abortion made more difficult and only 9 per cent want it to be made easier.

Bob Worcester of MORI is caustic about the Lib Dem voter: "There is no such thing as a natural Lib Dem. It is not What else do we know about a calling or a commitment but Lib Dem voters? They are of a an opt-out, or else a tactical vote. People float in and out of this way station. If you are angry with your natural party, you turn to the Lib Dems. It is the dustbin vote."

This is depressing. Ashdown and his team with their fine manifesto step out feebly supported by little more than a bog of random reject votes. But there are, as I have said, a great many very good reasons to sup-port the Lib Dems, so perhaps does not matter that their vote comes from those who do not much agree with them.

Despite his harsh words, Bob Worcester has a little comfort

Labour that taxes may have to rise, or protect us from some of

If yet again the Lib Dems find themselves a small and haphazard little clump on the green benches, what then? Ahead may lie just more of the same, a lifetime of permanent protest, waving and drowning from the sidelines for ever.

present poll showing. The prospect of a 200-seat Labour Politics is the most wasteful of all endeavours. If Lib Dem canlandslide will frighten some of didates and local parties put a fraction of their energies into a the more hesitant would-be single issue campaign or into volunteering for some good Dem instead, to restore some cause, they could achieve almost balance. Tactical voting in the anything with the time they waste on national political activity. Consider the leaflets printed. ing they will vote tactically to get the Conservatives out. Lib the myriad committee meetings, canvassing, fundraising. Christmas fayres and summer fetes, petitions and door knocking. Think of the emotional has always been an uphill energy spent on frictions and rivalries, plotting for places on policy sub-committees all too soon forgotten. What an empty waste of weekends and evenings. doing so little good to anyone. What keeps them going? Paddy Ashdown grits his teeth and iuts his jaw with an air of noble endurance. Almost unerringly he says and does the right thing - and so, maybe, one day, pergreen? Who will dare to tell haps, if only, if only ...

What do we know about the Lib Dem voter? You might expect a gallant band of radiinstance. Only 20 per cent of reflecting on Christianity's "fantastic loss of strength of weak tea. I want neither cults nor Lib Dem voters are anti- for the Lib Dems. He thinks direction", which is demonstrated by the pro- watered-down faith. monarchist, compared with 32 they will do better than their cals, keeping alight the flicker-Geisha girls of the literary world

Pinilico, 8pm. A wine bar bub-bling and beaded to the brim with the publishing trade, at the fun end of the working day, Flesh-tintstippled walls. A Booker-level author. a publisher-turned-author, a literary editor, a journalist; powerful folk in the literary world. With them, making the party go for the sake of books coming out next week, are publishers' publicity people.

Guess the sexes? Bizarre. The peo-

ple being feted are men. The others are women; but not called women. They re publicity girls.

Flavia's mobile phone rings. "Sorry." she says. "Kilburn" Why should I go - oh. alright. Name? Address? OK." She closes it ("Sorry one of my authors") and carries on about the New York reading tour. Discussion shifts to passages in the about-to-be-promoted book. "That's exactly what it's like when someone gives you a blow job," says the author, ("I have being surrounded by publicity girls. Longer-haired the better. My idea of a great time." he confides later to a friend, in the Gents.)

I've never met a publicity man. Ninety-nine per cent of people doing this job are women. They serve many masters. "You have to submit yourself to everybody else's will," says Flavia. You're always serving the author. editor, sales department, journalist,

bookseller." Some people buying books may not realise what hard work lies behind the way books get to them. Flavia planned and accompanied authors' tours, lunched with journalists (telling them about the book), rushed copies to reviewers, interviewers, producers, chatted up booksellers, editors, book-



Ruth **Padel**

Publishers employ publicity 'girls' to promote, wine, dine and mother their clients. Not to think

show presenters: anyone who can get the book into the air, page, screen and competed-for public skull. "It's an essential job," says Flavia. "It helps books reach readers. If I've liked a book. I want everyone to share what gave me pleasure. I love seeing a book I worked on go into the bestseller lists or even sell better than anyone expected. You're glad you've done that for it." "It's an important job when done well," agrees Rebecca. "It shouldn't be underestimated."

The job's not underestimated - but the people who do the job often are. "I used to feel apologetic when I told people what I did." Rebecca says. You were made to feel you were a lower form of life. It was something I resented and fought against. I used to think, 'You're making an assumption about me and I m going to show you who I actually am'

"People pay you for a certain skill," says Tilda, "not for what you think." They're not interested in that. The men at Flavia's table don't want her literary opinions (though she's read and thought about these men's books). They enjoy her company and listen avidly to what she says about marketability. "It's his breakthrough book in terms of accessibility," the iournalist will hear. Meaning there's a popular angle he can write up. Flavia may hate the book and its author, but has to serve both. ("I do tell journalists when I don't like a book, "says Rebecca, "otherwise you lose your credibility." Not what editor, author and sales department always

tour. You have to set boundaries without injuring your author's opinion of his own performance or of the service his publisher provides. "In nine years on the road," says Tilda, "I've only had a couple of really nasty moments. I've been lucky; or sent out the right signals. Still, I'm sympathetic to authors on tour. You can forgive them quite a lot. They've been writing this thing alone for God knows how long, and now they're in public with it every night. I don't mind soothing nerves. It's carrying their train tickets for them, showing their ticket to the guard as if you were their mother or their geisha, that gets me." Christ! Do you have to hold the towel when they wash after a pee? "The ones that aren't so famous are the worst. They're suddenly playing the great author. You're the one they play to hardest."

"Authors aren't the biggest problem, though," says Rebecca. "Journalists are." Really? Tell me more. "When you need them, interesting them in a wanted to, get merrily sloshed like the first-time author, that's fine. They can men she's serving. It's that way round be nice to you then. But when you've still. And no one's surprised. got a big author, something they need, you become this powerful person for them. They resent needing you. Journalists are parasitical on publicity girls but they really hate the fact they rely on them. They don't observe normal courtesies on the phone." She used to get furious and phone them back and say, "Can't you say 'Thank you' and 'Goodbye' at the end of a call?'

Surely that's only men? "Nope. Women too. It's equal." That's something, I suppose. Something worse. "There's something about being a Author-nannying is part of the job. Woman that lets you do Publicity," says agh; Galway Arts Festival, Wednesday. Some male authors would like sex with "their" publicity girl on a reading something about the job which attracts 00 353 91 568 303)

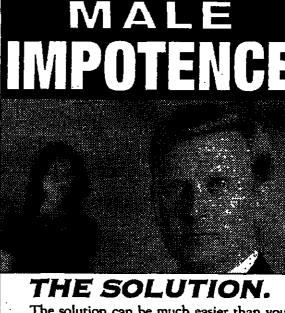
young women. They often go into it without understanding the ambiguity and dilemma of what they're asked to do. I get through by telling myself my opinions are important. But that does undermine the job."

When I publish a book. I love being looked after. Of course 1 do. It's very nice to be bought drinks, have someone arrange readings, distribute fliers. chat to booksellers. But why are the people who do these things for me always women? It's not that I want men serving me (and I can carry my own train tickets, thanks), but I mind that it's still like this at a time when Greenwich Observatory is selling off the last minutes of the millennium. You might expect the literary world to be a touch more self-sceptical than some. But it's thrown up this service with an implicit geisha-value agenda infuriatingly intact. At the fun end of the working day, that wine-bar is work for Flavia, on and off the phone. She can't, if she

Poetry readings this month set up by (mainly) publicity girls:
Elaine Feinstein and Jamie Mc-Kendrick, The Voice Box, Festival Hall.

Tuesday 8 April, 7.30pm (0171-960 4242) Tom Lynch, Poetry Society, 22 Betterion Si, Covent Garden. Wednesday 9 April 7.30pm (0171-240 2133)

City Writers, Southampton, series of readings in The Gantry (behind the "Rat and Parrot" in the heart of Southampton: (01703 572739) Carol Ann Duffy and Michael Don-



Labour voters into stepping

back in alarm and voting Lib

south is on the increase, with

some 11 per cent of voters say-

Dem success in local govern-

ment should help, though con-

verting local to national votes

struggle and a constant source

means clear that Labour will

deliver proportional represen-

tation unless forced to by the

Lib Dems – only Blair knows

his true intentions. Who will stop Labour sliding further into anti-Europeanism? Who will

keep Labour at least a little

This is a sad story. It is by no

of bitter disappointment.

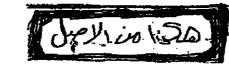
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London Clubs' £189m bid for rival is referred to MMC

Magnus Grimond

London Clubs' £189m bid for Loudon casino rivals Capital Corporation was yesterday unexpectedly referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. John Taylor, the consumer and corporate affairs minister at the Department of Trade and industry, said the possible combination of the two groups, "raises competition concerns in relation to the London casinos market.

The news prompted London advice given by the Office of Fair Clubs to lapse its offer of 47 shares Trading, but observers also suggest-

for every 100 in Capital and sent ed that with ministers' minds dis-shares in the latter down 14p to 186p. ed that with ministers' minds dis-tracted by campaigning he had de-London's shares slipped 7p to 401.5p.

Success for London Clubs would have given it at least 60 per cent of the capital's £1.7bn upmarket gam-bling industry, adding Crockfords and the Colony Club to the seven clubs it already owns, including the exclusive Ritz and Les Ambassadeurs venues. Mr Taylor said he had made his decision in the light of

tracted by campaigning he had de-cided it was easier to let the MMC decide the issue.

Greg Feehely, leisure analyst with Kleinwort Benson, said: "I can't think of a good reason why it should be referred to the MMC. This is not something which would harm the UK consumer. There is no pricing issue involved here." As the clubs are private and a large proportion of the clientele from abroad, he argued that there is no reason for the UK authorities to become involved.

The UK consumer or casino-goer is not going to be worse off by this going through ... and you're not really talking about the London market but 60 per cent of the in-ternational high-roller market." London Clubs said its board would now meet to discuss its next move in

the light of the decision. Alan Goodenough, chief executive, said: "Naturally, we are disappointed by the recommendation of the director gen-eral of fair trading. We believe that the arguments which we submitted to the OFT provided sound evidence

tition issues."
The decision was seen as a victory for Capital Corporation. Alan Hearn, Mr Goodenough's opposite number at the group, said the referral would allow management "to focus on developing further the group's valuable business, without the distraction and expense of an hostile bid. I welcome the opportunity to demonstrate to shareholders the significant value we can create as an

independent company." He said that they had plugged the

as usual", he said. Mr Hearn said he was not privy to the reasons for the referral, but he said he expected them to relate to market share, the increased barriers to entry caused by consolidation in the industry and the potential re-striction on choice. He said the gaming industry "generated a lot of income for this country and London in particular". Anything which made it less attractive to foreigners could

gaps caused by departure of 11 out of the group's 30 administrative staff, revealed recently. "It's business Union Bank of Switzerland. com-Julian Easthope, an analyst at Union Bank of Switzerland, compared the present referral with the similar circumstances of Pleasurama's bid for Trident Television in

That proposed takeover, which would have given Pleasurams two-thirds of the London casino market, was blocked by the MMC. The monopolies regulator justified that decision on grounds including the restriction on choice for gamblers "blackballed" at any one location.

Sterling back at its Black Wednesday level

The pound passed a key psychological barrier yesterday when it rose above its minimum rate in the European exchange rate mechanism. For the first time since "Black Wednesday" in September 1992 it climbed above the DM2.7780 floor.

The breakthrough, which is sure to worry British exporters. was described by analysts in the financial markets as a side-effect of the dollar's strength. It reached its highest level for more than four years, thanks to the strength of the American economy and the prospect of further increases in interest rates across the Atlantic.

But comments by Robin Cook, the shadow foreign secretary, indicating that a Labour government will be in no hurry to take Britain into the single currency, also helped underpin the pound.
Mr Cook's announcement

that Britain was unlikely to join during the course of the once again benefited from its

ropean finance ministers in

Robert Worcester, chief exec-

utive of MORI, the opinion

polisters, has written to John

Kemp-Welch, chairman of the

London Stock Exchange, urging him to clamp down on insider

dealers who manipulate share

prices by "leaking" non-existent poll results in the run up to a

The letter has raised eye-

brows in the City, where some

attributed it to publicity seek-ing on Mr Worcester's part.

Others were perplexed at the

suggestion that, this time round,

it would make any difference at

all to the share prices whichey-

er party won the election. If any-

general election.

Noordwijk was seen as making it more likely that the single curreacy will start on time but with loose interpretation of whether or not countries satisfy the economic criteria.

A newly rising exchange rate will help take the pressure off Kenneth Clarke when he is advised by the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, at Thursday's meeting, to increase base rates. Figures since their last meeting have pointed to a buoyant economy. In the Chancellor's own words. Britain is booming."

But most City economists think it will fall to the next Chancellor - and they believe it will be Gordon Brown - to raise rates soon after the election. This prospect is helping to underpin the strong pound.

In an active day's trading, gilts also soared on the tail of other government bond markets. And shares closed higher too, the FTSE 100 index ending up more than 35 points at 4,271.7.

it was a nice psychological monext parliament meant sterling ment for sterling yesterday," said Alison Cottrell at Paine predicted the pound's new show

The weekend meeting of Eu- of strength would continue. Gerard Lyons, chief econo-

Opinion poll chief warns

about false election 'leaks'

City commentators have al-

ready said that during the elec-

tion campaign the stock market

will be buffeted by the for-

tunes of the political parties as

measured by the opinion polls. He says he does not worry

about this, as information will al-

ways drive share prices, whether

"What I do worry about is the

the announcement of economic,

rumours of results of private

polls, or worse, fictitious poll findings, leaked out by un-

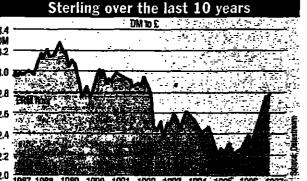
scrupulous traders in an effort

to manipulate the markets. In my

employment or other statistics.

like Edward Heath and Harold to Mr Kemp-Welch's prede-Macmillan. to Mr Kemp-Welch's prede-cessor Sir Nicholas Goodison in

Mr Worcester writes that 1979 about this problem.



mist at DKB in London, said: "The dollar is the key. The economic fundamentals are better in the US than either Germany or Japan. The pound has

risen on the dollar's coat-tails." Since the US Federal Reserve raised interest rates by a quarter point at the end of last month there has been fresh evidence of the robust economic outlook. Friday brought figures showing another big increase in employment and ris-

ing wage costs.

The currency markets were also reassured by comments from US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, visiting Japan at the end of last week. He indicated that the US administration would not rely on a weak dollar to correct the country's trade deficit with Japan.

The dollar passed the ¥125 mark for the first time since February 1993. Analysts see ¥130 as the next target.

It also passed DM1.71, the highest level for three weeks, he-"The dollar is dominant, but fore ending just below that level after profit-taking in European trading.

However, the weekend's sinfavoured the pound against the mark. The German currency was weak across the board against other EU currencies.

Along with Chancellor Hel-mut Kohl's decision to stand for re-election, the Noordwijk meeting persuaded investors that the political impetus to-wards EMU had been renewed.

This suggests that there could be a greater degree of flexibility in deciding which countries will qualify-or in other words, more fudging of the Maastricht criteria. Eric Fishwick at Nikko Europe said: "The markets have scented a softening of tone on the part of Germany."

"In that election over 100

telephone calls were taken by

the Daily Express and oursleves

about rumours of a last minute

swing to Labour', reportedly

showing a 2 per cent Labour

lead, coming out on the Tues-day before the election."

some £1bu in the value of shares

was wiped out by these rumours

of a poll which never existed. Lat-

er it was rumours of a Gallup poll

in the Telegraph - equally non-existent - which caused City

City sceptics might argue

that it is difficult to see anyone

"panicking" whatever the result

traders to panic, he writes.

of the present election.

Mr Worcester writes that



Ahead of the game: Martin Edwards warned wages would continue to spiral unless transfer fees were abolished

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Manchester United's chief executive, Martin Edwards, warned yesterday that footballers' wages would continue to spiral unless the transfer structure was altered in the wake of the Bosman ruling.

Arguing for the abolition of transfer fees in the British game, Mr Edwards said wages of United's 46-strong playing staff had risen by £2.5m on the previous year. Much of the increase was due to players seek-

Manchester United players' wages increase by £2.5m

ing higher wages as a result of the Bosman ruling which allows players to move for no fee between European counties if they are at the end of their contract. "We would welcome the outlawing of transfer fees," Mr Edwards said. The current system encourages you to sign overseas players."

Manchester United's total wage bill increased by around £5.5m last year, of which 40 per cent was due to player wage increases. Mr Edwards was speaking as Manchester United announced profits of £19.4m for the six months to 31 January compared to £15.2m in the previous year. !

Gate receipts, television revenue and merchandise sales were all up strongly. The figures were also boosted by increased capacity at Old Trafford fol-

lowing redevelopment. The club revealed it had made profits of £7.5m from its successful run in the European Cup. Mr Edwards said that win-

ning the competition would cost the club money in the current financial year because of the huge bonuses that would be paid to players. However, the longerterm benefits of victory would be considerable. Group turnoverwas up from £30m to £50m.

Meanwhile, Sheffield United, the Nationwide first division club, has sold two of its subsidiaries for almost £1m. The business include the Le Coq Sportif brand, which is being sold to Gilbert & Pollard, a sporting supplies company. Investment column, page 22

BT to spend £30m on | UK sales slump telemarketing centres hits car giants

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

British Telecom's 21 million customers can expect to hear from its army of marketing staff at least four times a year, it emerged yesterday, as the company signalled a new phase in the increasingly tough battle with the cable companies.

BT announced plans to spend £30m building two call centres, with the creation of 2,000 jobs. Each building will house 650 telemarketing terminals arranged on a single floor the size of one-and-ahalf football pitches.

The first will open on a greenfield site in Doncaster in October, just as Cable & Wireless's £5bn merged cable group launches a national brand to compete with BT and BSkvB. The second centre, north of Newcastle, opens in November. The investment follows the opening of the first huge telemarketing operation in War-rington last December.

BT also said it aimed to double the size of an older telemarketing operation in Glasgow, adding another 330 seats, and re-furbish another centre in Bristol. The investment in the programme, which is the brainchild of BT's chief executive, Sir Peter Bonfield, comes on top of an estimated advertising budget this year of up to £200m.



Sir Peter Bonfield: The man

Most of the 2,000 jobs are part-time, with employees working on average 25 hours a week. BT said with commission payments they could double their basic pay of £4.50 an

Each member of staff will be graded in detailed league tables measuring everything from the length of calls to the take-up rate of product offerings.

Alan Cunningham, BT's general manager for telemarketing, said the staff would call only BT customers to follow up quarterly marketing mail-shots.

During each conversation, lasting an average of seven minutes, the staff will tell customers about BT pricing and discount packages. Mr Cunningham said homes would still get a call even if they had already signed up for the Friends and Family and Premier Line

discount schemes. "It's like a friend calling to make sure people are getting the best deal. The overwhelming majority of customers like it and our calls are well received. This is all about building relationships," he said.
So far the awareness strate-

gy seems to be paying off. Over the past year the number of homes taking up the Friends and Family offer has risen from 2.5 million to 11 million, out of BT's total customer base of 21 million. Of these, about 3 million are members of the light user scheme and would not be eligible to join other discount

Yet in recent months the cable companies have scored sig-nificant success, raising the number of BT customers poached from 60,000 a month to more than 75,000 a month. Some 2.3 million homes now take cable telephone services, though this remains a disap-pointingly small figure com-pared with the 8.5 million houses which could take the service. BT has meanwhile managed to stabilise last year's dip in residential phone lines, largely because the overall market is growing faster than the rate at

which customers go elsewhere.

Ford and Vauxhall saw their share of the British car market slide last month as the industry reported a "dramatic" and unexpected slowdown in the sales

The statistics, from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, showed registrations fell by 0.23 per cent in March compared with the same month last year, to 179,863. Between January and March sales have risen by just 18,500 to 549,534, with the bulk of the growth made in January.

Roger King from the SMMT said the slowdown "seemed to be in conflict with surveys show-ing retail spending picking up". One possibility was that buyers had been put off by the election uncertainty and the likelihood of higher interest rates whichever party wins power.

Privately manufacturers yesterday questioned the validity of the statistics, citing the early Easter break and a backlog of registration documents last The figures continued the

worrying surge in sales of imported cars established last year. In March imports accounted for 65.29 per cent of the market, up from 61 per cent in March 1996. At the same time the traditional volume makes, Ford, Vauxhall and Rover, all Rover in five year's time."

did badiv. Ford's market share was worst hit, slumping to 16.9 per cent in March from just under 20 per cent. The US giant blamed the drop on radical changes to dealer bonuses, introduced in February.

From now on Ford dealers receive bonuses based on annual regional sales targets, instead of the monthly goals widely blamed in the industry for artificially inflating the figures.

A Ford spokeswoman said the picture was not as bleak as some in the industry had suggested. "The Mondeo is now the best-selling car in the UK. So far this year Ford has the topthree selling models. That's

very good news." Vauxhall's share of the market dropped from 15.5 per cent to 13.46 per cent, while Rover's share slipped by 1 percentage point, to 10.94 per cent. The main beneficiaries were European imported brands, with Fiat enjoying its best March since the 1970s, grabbing 4.6 per cent of the market. Volkswagen sold more than 9,000 cars in March, taking the German group's share to over 5 per cent.

Jay Nagley, from marketing consultants Quadrangle, said customers preferences had shifted. "People are moving away from volume brands to makes like Fiat and VW. On this basis BMW could be outselling

view, the Stock Exchange should thing Mr Blair seems to be to be concerned about this. Mr Worcester says he wrote

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Bankers Trust buys Alex Brown for \$1.7bn

In a clear sign that the prohibi-tion-era wall between commeryesterday announced the acquisition of brokerage firm Alex Brown for \$1.7bn (£1.04bn), writes David Usborne.

The deal, coming close on the heels of February's \$10.2hm merger between Morgan Stanley and Dean Witter, Discover, will rekindle speculation about consolidation on Wall

vantage of steps taken last year on mid-size brokerages.

by the Federal Reserve to loosen the rules that have tracial banks and securities firms ditionally curbed the involvein the US is breaking down, ment of US banks in the Bankers Trust New York Corp securities business. The restrictions date back to the 1933 Glass-Steagall Act.

The Fed raised to 25 per cent from 10 per cent the proportion of revenue that US banks can earn through the underwriting of securities.

While there is wide anticipation of mergers between securities companies - as with the Morgan Stanley-Dean Witter Bankers Trust, America's marriage - Wall Street will now seventh-largest bank, took ad-

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Greenhur over Lie

Macalister

The operators who will do well are the ones who got in early and snapped up franchises for a song before Sir George cottoned on to quite what a graw train he had set in motion'

Turkeys home to roost after great rail sell-off

The gyrations yesterday in the share prices of Prism and Go-Ahead are a timely re-minder that rail privatisation may not prove to be the one-way bet it once seemed. The cause of the panic was a report by a former Coopers & Lybrand man suggesting that of the 25 passenger franchises let by Sir George Young, Prism and Go-Ahead have contrived

between them to pick up the five turkeys. Tim Powell, who now runs his own transport consultancy, reckons that, even on the most optimistic assumptions about revenue growth, the five franchises well lose money and, if his least optimistic scenario comes to pass, the industry could be coming back to the next government cap in hand asking for another £1.5bn in subsidy to add to the £8bn it has already pocketed.

You can quibble with his methodology (Prism and Go-Ahead, surprise, surprise, reckon the spur of private enterprise will grow income at double the rate assumed by Mr Powell). You can also question the provenance of his report which was produced for Save our Railways, trade union-backed organisation dedicated to fighting rail privatisation.

But what is harder to argue with is the central message of his analysis. This is that the operators who will do well are the ones who got in early and snapped up franchises for a song before Sir George cottoned on to quite what a gravy train he had set in motion. Stagecoach may be making a poor fist out of running South West Trains but it could end year franchise ends. Conversely, the opera-tors who will do worst are, in the main, those who arrived later or whose subsidies are not matched by equally large passenger revenues. The squeeze comes because income needs to rise at a much higher rate than sub-

sidies fall in order to produce a profit. The alternative of taking a hatchet to controllable costs, manpower in the main, has been undermined by SWT's unhappy discovery that it is hard to run a train service without drivers. Cynical franchisees could make enough money in the first couple of years to recoup their investment before the

reductions in subsidy begin to bite.

The government would then have the unenviable choice of forking out more support or finding someone else to run the railways. But this, in all likelihood, will not be Sir George's problem.

Blair winning war to woo the City

L'Flexibility Plus" sounds more like an advertisement for a credit card than Tony Blair's conversion to the cause of flexible labour markets but it was the latter Mr Blair was referring to in his speech to City and business leaders yesterday. We have come to expect lectures from Mr Blair on the merits of free market economics, but that shouldn't take away from the significance of his latest up making £478m profit by the time its seven- | sayings on the subject, for he seems to have | tionist, traditional socialist approach to man-

over the past 18 years.

The free market reforms of the 1980s, you will be pleased to know, were not really anything to do the Toxies as such; Mrs Thatcher was a mere tool in the ouward march of history, Mr Blair implied - or nearly, anyway and if Labour had been in power it might have done the same. To prove his point Mr Blair cites Jim Callaghan speaking to the Labour Party conference in 1976. "In all candour, the option of spending our way out of recession no longer exists," Mr Callaghan said. Today Mr Blair asserts that "progressive

economic thinking at that time, on both sides of the political divide, was beginning to assert that markets, not governments, had the main responsibility for creating full employ-ment". That is, of course, nonsense, and if Mr Blair wasn't aware of his rewriting of history, his andience certainly wa

None of this matters to business and the the City, of course, if Labour really does now accept these basic principles. There was nothing in Mr Blair's speech to suggest that Labour's conversion is anything but total. And Mr Blair is certainly right in part of his analysis. The death of Keynesian economics and the belief that free markets and balanced budgets are the best way to full employment is very much a world-wide phenomenon. The power of the global economy is such that even if Mr Blair did want to embark on an isola-

Mr Blair is right in other respects 100. Business is actually in favour of many of the "enhancements" to the free market economics of the Tories that Mr Blair now proposes - in particular the greater emphasis on training and education and the urgent need to cosy up to Europe. Mr Blair may not yet have convinced everyone that business has nothing to fear from Labour, but the stock market's failure to react to the opinion polls is powerful evidence that the war is substan-

Behind the sterling and dollar upstarts

What a delicious irony that it is the prospect of the pound staying out of another European currency arrangement that has finally helped it regain the level it last saw when it was catapulted out or Europe the last time. And how like the topsy-turvy world of the foreign exchange markets to be driving higher the two currencies - the dollar and sterling - which are most in danger of a revival of the inflation which has, in the long term, led to their steady depreciation against the classic strong currencies of this world.

Have things changed so much that we can not expect to hear from now on the word "pound" or "dollar" unqualified by the adjec-

gone further than ever in accepting the underlying merit of everything that's happened over the past 18 years.

agement of the economy, and even if the elective "strong"? It is certainly true that the Anglo-Saxon economies are buoyant in ways the markets would stop him from doing it. of at the moment. Even if both of these pick up as expected during the course of 1997, they are not going to catch up to the US or UK.

This sterling rally could go much further.

Yet it is too soon to say that the tide of history has turned. The economic fundamentals suggest the opposite, and however long it takes them, the fundamentals tend to win out in the end. Take trade. America's trade is deep in the red already; Britain's soon could be if the unfavourable trends continue, and if the moans of pain from exporter turn out to be true. The underlying trade picture will tend to reverse the pattern of currency appreciation eventually - even if American nerves do not fray sooner, leading the US to bully Japan into efforts to prop up the yen.

The other consideration for future nominal exchange rate levels will be inflation prospects. Here again, the very long-run pic-ture layours the traditional strong currencies rather than the dollar and sterling upstarts. The differences do not look big in a low infla-tion world, but the US and UK have higher inflation rates than the other big industrial countries, and more inflationary pressure in

Predicting the direction is one thing, the timing entirely another. Past experience suggests it can take years, as in the early 1980s, for those fundamentals to reassert them-

Burmah

profits

hit by

strong

pound

Burmah Castrol warned yes-

terday its profits would fall by

9 per cent, more than £20m, this

year if sterling maintained its current strength, making it the

latest in a long line of compa-

nies to be hit by the soaring pound. Jonathan Fry, chief executive, also cautioned that Fu-

rope and North America

remained difficult markets for

the motor oil that dominated

group sales but said the Far East was booming.

Profits before tax rose 6 per

spite the early effects of the

pound's rise as strong turnover

growth in Asia more than made

up for sluggish markets in Eu-

rope and severe price compe-

tition in North America.

According to Mr Fry, five of

Burmah's top 10 markets are

now in Asia and the company

Tom Stevenson

City Editor

RJB shares jump on 'clean coal' environment prospects

Michael Harrison

hares in RJB Mining, Britain's higgest coal producer, leapt 10 per cent yesterday as hopes grew that a future Labour govern-ment would support its plans for a new generation of environmentally-friendly clean coal nower stations.

The company was also bolstered by confirmation that National Power, the country's next government allow the new

generation since privatisation

last year in a joint initiative with

the French oil group, Elf Aquit-

Confirming British Energy's deviously stated strategy of

seeking other forms of elec-

tricity generation, the company

said it would be investing £20m

in a 12.5 per cent stake in

Humber Power, a large com-

hined cycle gas-fired station

joining RJB and Texaco to same way as nuclear and reternative coal generation would study the feasibility of building newable energy are through a not be available. a 400-megawatt clean coal station next to RJB's Kellingley pit in west Yorkshire.

Both RJB and National Power warned, however, that government backing was essential to support the commercial development of the new technology.

Humber Power is building a

than £800m, with the first 750

megawatt phase due to open

shortly. British Energy said the

second phase was under con-

struction and would be com-

The plant is one of several

large gas stations which have

missioned in 1999.

ate ABB.

levy included in electricity bills. Richard Budge, chief execu-

tive of RJB, said that the £150m cost of this could be met by keeping the levy at its present level of 3.7 per cent rather than reducing it to 2.2 per cent next year. He warned that consumers

They are suggesting that the would end up paying either ext government allow the new way since if the "dash for gas" largest electricity generator, is stations to be subsidised in the by generators continued then al-

during 1995.
British Energy has already ex-

reactors, but abandoned the proposal last summer. Though

the group has seen big produc-

tivity and efficiency gains at its

existing plants under Robert

Hawley, chief executive, it wants

to use the almost guaranteed in-

come stream from nuclear gen-

"If we are to retain, in the

short term, an electricity market for coal of around 40-45 million tonnes a year then a considerable burn in clean coal power stations will have to be achieved," Mr Budge told a gathering of coal industry executives in London,

The first integrated gasification clean coal plant that RJB

keting business which sells fuel

mainly to large business cus-

tomers. The offices, in Edin-

burgh, Birmingham, London

and Sevenoaks, were run by out-

side contractors. The company

said no Mobil staff were affected

and the workers hit had been of-

fered work elsewhere. A spoke-

sman added the four centres

accounted for 5 per cent of sales

nology could be worth up to \$500bn (£307bn) by 2010. Building 5,000-megawatts of clean coal plant would be enough to satisfy about 10 per cent of demand in Britain and British Energy turns to gas generation

would create a market for 10-Chris Godsmark

Business Correspondent

Elf is taking a similar stake,
British Energy, the nuclear member ventile which industrial conglomer
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would cost about £300m and produce electricity at a cost of

3p a unit, compared with 2.2p

for gas-fired stations and the

RJB estimates that there is a

UK market for about 5,000-

megawatts of clean coal power

generating a turnover of £1bn

But the company says that the

world-wide market for the tech-

current pool price of 2.5p.

to expire next April and a fall in sales is likely without the go-ahead for new environmentally friendly coal stations.

Keith Henry, chief executive of National Power, said that at present it was cheaper to fit antipollution kit to existing coalfired stations than build new ones based on the clean coal technology.

However, he added: "It has



Burning question: Richard Budge, RJB chief executive.

the potential to be the best option for new build as it meets tougher environmental restric-

The flue gas desulphurisation equipment fitted to coal stations now filters out sulphur emissions but does not stop the main greenhouse gas carbon monoxde. Nor does it improve plant

stations being examined by RBJ and its partners are up to 40 per

cent more efficient. National Power is already involved in a project to build a 335 megawati clean coal plant

at Puertollano in Spain. A clean coal plant based on Texaco's technology has meanwhile recently opened in efficiency. The new clean coal

is creating 350 jobs in the region this year to add to the 400 it added last year. Castrol's Asian arm now makes more profits than its business in North America and the company expects it to overtake the European operation by 2000. It is building factories in Bombay, Singapore and China to capitalise on the region's rapid growth but announced plans yesterday to close a fac-

kept the lid on selling prices. In chemicals, where Burmah has faced a long struggle to justify its acquisition in the early 1990s of speciality group Fos-eco, profits rose 9 per cent to £66m and the division's return on sales of 8.3 per cent came close to Mr Fry's target return of 10 per cent. He said he ex-pected to pass that milestone

tory in North America where a

scramble for market share has

Burmah's shares closed 16.5p higher at 1,014p, partly reflect-ing Burmah's decision to pay all of its final dividend as a foreign income dividend of 24.8p, which it then enhanced by 6.2p for the benefit of non-tax-paying insti-

Greenbury 'breached guide' over Lloyds TSB bosses'

Terry Macalister

Sir Richard Greenbury, Marks & Spencer chairman and a Lloyds TSB, faces shareholder criticism next week for allowing Lloyds TSB to apparently breach his own corporate governance guidelines. Some shareholders who in-

tend to go to the Lloyds TSB annual meeting on 15 April plan to ask why the company's board are allowed to set their own pay instead of leaving the issue in the hands of a remuneration

Feelings have been running high since it was revealed chief executive Peter Ellwood had been awarded a 1996 honus of

muneration package to £1.2m. well. He thought it unlikely While the Greenbury report suggested a remuneration committee should be the final arbiter of pay, at Lloyds TSB it is the board which takes a final decision after advice from a pay

Last night Sir Richard in-sisted his Greenbury report offered only recommendations that should not be taken as hard and fast rules to be implemented whatever the situation. He said: "What I wanted [with the Greenbury report] was to ensure there was an adequate level of discussion so that shareholders had transparency and could question those who set executive pay levels."
Sir Richard believed that the

there would be any complaints from large shareholders. Michael Napier, one share-

1,260 megawatt power station in a project likely to cost more erating plant next to one of its

expressed concern.

But this failed to pacify some of the company's smaller in-

holder whose proxy will raise the issue next week said: "I think it is absolutely disgraceful. Sir Richard is a member of the board and yet he has not done anything to bring Lloyds TSB pay practices in line with his own report and stock market rec-ommendations." The UK Shareholders Association also But a spokeswoman for the

hank said it was much more democratic for the full board of 16 non-executive directors to take the ultimate decision on pay.

Regan misses Co-op deadline

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Andrew Regan has failed in his attempt to get his bid approach to the Co-op movement formally discussed at the Co-operative Wholesale Society's annual general meeting next

It was expected that Mr Regan's Lanica Trust would try to ensure that a resolution supporting his proposals would appear on the agenda at the meeting on 17 May. However, the deadline for submissions was 2 April and the CWS board had received no proposals supporting him by that date. As resolutions can only be tabled by CWS members, Mr Regan was relying on the support of sympathetic members to put foropen until the following week-end to give postal applications more time but still received no resolutions from any Regan supporters. It is also understood that at the board meeting on 2 April the directors were unanimous in its support for main-taining the CWS in its current

Though Mr Regan's interest in buying parts of the non-food interests of the Co-op will clearly be an issue at the meeting, the lack of a formal resolution will be a setback for the 31-year-old entrepreneur and could delay any formal bid approach. However, the Lanica Trust team were making light of the

issue yesterday, suggesting that it may have found another route. "It is not a question of missing any date. It is not a key date in our diary," a spokesma

The CWS concedes that Mr Regan could have a special general meeting called but would need 10 of the society's 300 members to support his pro-

The CWS annual meeting takes place in Manchester on 17 May and will be attended by around 300 society members. A full list of resolutions will not be published until 19 April when the CWS will publish its results for last year. The figures are expected to show a decline in profits from the previous year's £30m though not the slide into the red that some have been ex-

The Co-op has also shrugged off suggestions that a strategic review ordered by its chief executive, Graham Melmoth, has only just come to light. The CWS says that Mr Melmoth ordered the review last autumn

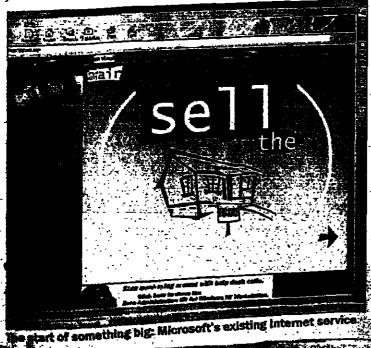
following his appointment and that it was public knowledge at that time. It said that the results of the review would not be known for some months but repeated that there were no plans

to sell any of its business

Mr Melmoth met Co-op managers last Friday and stressed the need for further convergence of its disparate societies. He has already said that a merger between the two largest divisions, the CWS and the Co-operative Retail Society is something that would happen in time. However, the Lanica Trust approach is likely to have made the need for action more urgent.

Mr Regan's approach has been made through Galileo, an arm's length company of Lanica Trust. He is interested in a £500m deal that would see him take control of parts of the movement's non-food interests.

£679,000, bringing his total re-practice at Lloyds TSB worked The board kept the deadline Microsoft buys itself a place in the Internet's future



Searching for ways to maintain its lead in home computing, Microsoft has paid \$425m (£261m) for WebTV, a tiny start-up company that sells devices that enable viewers to connect to the Internet through their television set. The deal, though relatively mod-

est in dollar terms, is being viewed as critical in several regards. Above all, it signals an effort by Microsoft's Bill Gates to position himself for the expected merging together over the next few years of the home computer, the television set and the Internet. At the same time, it also puts Microsoft in the thick of the struggle just getting under way here to agree on new standards for digital, as opposed to analog, television technology. The battle has to be settled by 2006, the date set by the US government for the introduction of

figital broadcasts. It also further demonstrates the conversion of Mr Gates to the Internel. For a long period Microsoft nology for set-top boxes that connect

The purchase of a tiny start-up company for £261m is a crucial step for Bill Gates, writes David Usborne

stood aloof from the Internet rush until it felt suddenly threatened by companies growing out of it, like

Indeed, the WebTV deal is Microsoft's largest Internet-related acquisition ever. Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser, developed in the face of Netscape's competition, and Windows CE operating system for pocket computers will be incorporated in WebTV products.

"This acquisition is the cornerstone of our long-term effort to combine the best of the Internet and the best of digital television technology," said Craig Mundie, Microsoft's se-morvice president. "We want to take the personal computer and its progeny quickly into the home". WebTV has developed the techtelevisions to the Internet via a telephone line. About the size of an ordinary cable box and priced at about \$300, the boxes allow viewers to use e-mail and surf the Internet on their televisions using a remote control.

In business only since 1995, the privately-held WebTV counted Microsoft and one of its founders, Paul Allen, among its investors. Its boxes have been available since December and are made under licence by Sony and Philips.

Microsoft will provide the heft to begin marketing its Internet technology in earnest worldwide. Microsoft officials believe that the cost of the box technology can quickly be brought down to \$50 and that soon manufacturers will begin installing it inside their sets.

The stakes involved in both the digital television revolution and in the marriage of TV and the Internet are astonishingly high. The potential market for replacing all of America's TV sets with new digital versions alone will be worth as much as \$150bn.

The issue of which standards should be used is crucial. For now, US broadcasters are pursuing a standard that will only provide for much clearer, home-theatre style pictures and sound, but nothing more. For WebTV, the embrace of Microsoft is now joining a growing coalition in the computer industry demanding that the standards must also make the new generation of TVs In-

ternet-intelligent. It is not hard, meanwhile, to fathom the lure of television to companies like Microsoft. Currently, home computers have penetrated a little

more than one third of America's homes - and merely 10 per cent of homes in Europe and Japan. Television, however, has found its way into 98 per cent of US homes (better even than the telephone).

Some analysis worry, never the less, that Microsoft is still uncertain of where to go next and indeed is following a schizophrenic strategy.

On the one hand, it is fighting to maintain consumer commitment to the full-blown personal computer most of which, after all, are run on Windows operating system - while scorning the efforts of Oracle and Sun Microsystems to win us over to the much simpler and cheaper NC or network computer.

In many regards, however, an Internet-capable television set and the Oracle NC, which has no hard drive and derives all of its power and memory from the Internet, are pretmuch the same product. The question: is Microsoft lost or is it cannily playing both sides of the game?

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Double loss gives Glaxo a headache

Magnus Grimond

Glaxo Wellcome suffered a double blow yesterday after losing a key patent battle in the US and seeing a drug it largely developed launched by a rival. The news that Novopharm, a US drugs group, has won permission from a US court to market a rival to Zantac, the UK group's best-selling anti-ulcer drug, coincided with an announcement from rival Zeneca that it was launching Zomig, a migraine treatment which Glaxo was forced by US regulators to sell in September. But the damage had been anticipated by dealers and Glaxo's shares dipped only

4p to £10.86 yesterday. A Federal appeal court ruled on Friday that Novopharm's application to market a nonpatented form of Zantac did not infringe Glaxo's so-called form 2 version of the drug, over which it will continue to hold a US patent until 2002. The un-

lowed a decision against Glaxo in a US district court in North over the next two years. Carolina almost a year ago, means that much cheaper generic forms of Zantac will go on sale when the US form 1 patent runs out in July. Novopharm said it was also ready to launch a generic form of Zovirax, Glaxo's big-selling

shingles and genital herpes drug. The British company is unlikely to appeal further in the Novopharm case and was yesterday playing down the effects of the ruling. A spokesman said: "We have been saying for some time we have been anticipating generic competition."

At the time the company announced its annual results last month, Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive, warned that US sales of Zantac could slump by as much as 80 per cent in the 12 months after the patent expired in July. But he went out of his way to allay City fears about the prospects for the

over the next two years.

Analysis largely agreed that the ruling had done little to change market expectations. Fraser Hall at Barclays de Zoete Wedd said forecasters had been expecting multiple generic competition from July and the only question was whether Glaxo could limit its competitors to, say, two or three, rather than the six to eight expected. He said the group was likely to continue its legal battle against other potential generic producers.

The Zovirax move is seen as less significant. Whereas more than half last year's total Zan-tac sales of £1.95bn were in the US, less than two-fifths of Zovirax sales were there, making the effects of generic competition on the drug there less severe.

The launch of Zomig in the UK was also heralded last month by Zeneca at the time of its annual results announce-



Advanced warning: Sir Richard Sykes said last month that US sales of Zantac could slump by 80 per cent

proval for the drug from the authorities. Zeneca, which will roll out the drug in other countries during the year, said the world market was expected to be worth £1.5bn by 2000. Analysts successful appeal, which fol- group, saying he expected earn- ment when it said it had won ap- expect Zomig could achieve Laboratories of Texas.

peak sales of £250m to £300m by early next century. Separately, Chiroscience, the biotechnology group, an-

nounced it had entered into a research alliance with Alcon

IN BRIEF

Dwyer Estates to buy 70 properties

Dwyer Estates has exchanged contracts to purchase a portfolio of 70 high-yielding freehold industrial and commercial properties in West and North-west London from Slough Estates for £32.2m cash. The portfolio currently produces an annual income of £3.75m, reflecting a net initial yield of 11.3 per cent after purchase costs. Dwyer Estates said two-thirds of the income was secured on "excellent covenants" including the Department of Environment, Allied Domeco, Renault, Legal and General Assurance Society. Barclays Bank and Malaya Group, while half of the income was secured on leases having unexpired terms of greater than 10 years and 70 per cent were greater than five years

Norweb US interests sold for £25m

United Utilities has agreed to sell Norweb's generation interests located in the US to Indeck North American Power Fund, a private independent fund which owns and operates independent power projects, for approximately £25m. Norweb's US generation interests comprise 50 per cent partnership interests in each of two independent power projects: a 150MW cogeneration plant in Auburndale, Florida, and a 240MW cogeneration plant in Gordonsville, Virginia. United Utilities said the total value achieved so far under its disposal programme was now £459m, which, it said, significantly exceeded the original target of £350m.

Taylor agrees Stagecoach plans

John Taylor, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, has accepted Stagecoach Holdings' undertakings to remedy the adverse effects on competition identified by the Monopolies & Mergers Commission as a result of the company's acquisition of Ayrshire Bus Owners (A1 Service). The undertakings restrict Stagecoach's ability to exploit the strength of its position by raising fares and cutting services.

Adams joins House of Fraser

House of Fraser has appointed David Adams as group finance director. Mr Adams is currently finance director of the Asprey Group, which he joined in November 1995. He has spent the past 10 years in the retail industry.

Rexam sells businesses for £25m

Rexam has sold a further four businesses for a total of £25.35m. The businesses - Rexam Containers US and Canada, Tactus and Benham - have a combined annual turnover of £37.8m and make operating profits of £1.5m. Collective net assets are put at £23.5m.

Pordum Foods warns on profits

Pordum Foods, quoted on the Alternative Investment Market, warned that turnover and profits in the current financial year would be substantially below the illustrative projections made in last year's prospectus. The shares fell 1p to 1.5p after the announcement. The company said recovery in the second half would not be envisaged when the half-year figures were released.

Financial services jobs increase

The number of people employed in financial services in the UK rose over the past three months for the first time since Septemher 1995, according to a joint survey of more than 300 companies by the Confederation of British Industry and Coopers & Lybrand. The survey showed that 38 per cent of the companies increased staff numbers, while 27 per cent reduced jobs.

Universal Salvage shares savaged after warning

Universal Salvage saw its shares company at all. "Universal has tumble by a third after the recently floated car auctioneer warned profits for the year to April would be well below expectations.

Richard Bird, managing director, has left the group with immediate effect following a collapse in the share price to be-

low the 1995 flotation price. Universal's founder and chairman Cliff Bassett has taken over the reins once more and will act as managing director until a replacement is found.

He said that he was confident recent deal with Norwich Union would lift profitability this financial year, but his optimism did not prevent the shares, which reached a high of 286p last year, closing 67.5p lower at 135p.

"The company is in a good state. But I'm the first to admit that I'm disappointed by low profitability," he said. "I feel that the following six months will be a decent period. I do not ance companies to collect and store cars that have been writ-

claims have been fully processed. It holds 15 per cent of the UK's annual write-offs. Universal acquired more cars this year than last. However, the number auctioned in the final

quarter was significantly lower than expected, following delays by insurance companies in earing cars for auction. We could be criticised for slowness in alerting the insur-

ance companies to the problem," said Mr Bassett, adding that there was a backlog in processing an exceptional number of motor claims this winter. Profit on vehicles sold was

also significantly lower than expected in the fourth quarter, though it was higher now than three months ago, he said. The high start-up cost of a tie-up with Norwich Union, also con-

"Norwich Union gave us a very thorough going over, which is a good thing. But it took longer than expected. The infrastructure changes in terms of It then sells them off once more staffing to handle the increased and varied salvage did not cost a huge amount, but it was significant," Mr Bassett

Universal will have sole rights to handle all vehicles written off each year by the insurer, estimated at around 15,000. The deal is not expected to lift profits until April 1998.

Mr Bassett also said voluntary safety regulations developed in conjunction with the Association of British Insurers and Lloyd's Motor Underwriters Association had dampened

Universal closely vets firms which buy wrecked cars to make sure dangerous cars are not spruced up and re-sold. As a result, more cars are

classified as scrap, fetching less

Trafficmaster clears the way for profitable year

Chris Hughes

Trafficmaster, which makes incar traffic-jam warning systems, yesterday reported a 38 per cent leap in losses for 1996 but predicted it would be profitable this Sir Colin McKinnon, chair-

man, said: "New European developments make the medium and long-term outlook in-creasingly exciting." He attrib-uted last year's increased losses of £3.4m to a jump in marketing spending of almost £1 m. Turnover was up 35 per cent following Vauxhall's decision in August to fit Trafficmaster's Oracle congestion warning sys-tem on at least 100,000 Vectras.

Fourth-quarter sales almost Vectras and extend it to other matched those for the rest of the

Trafficmaster operates what it claims is the world's only incar traffic congestion warning system. Roadside infra-red sensors send information about traffic speed to a central office. Subscribing drivers receive spoken or visual broadcasts.

The company hopes Oracle will become a marketable car feature and it hopes to go into the black, following sales of 40,000 Oracle units since December, compared with 56,000 in the previous year, new subscribers and recent deals. In January Vauxhall decided to make Oracle standard on all

models. Although other car manufacturers have indicated intentions to fit Oracle, they want to install it in car radios. Trafficmaster said this would delay reaching sales targets and has accelerated plans for a car radio unit, which is due this year. It also plans a service which

reports congestion to cellular telephone users, who can phone for detailed information. It is working with Blaupunkt and Philips to integrate Oracle into their in-car navigation systems.
This month Trafficmaster li-

censed Germany's Mannes-mann Autocom and T-Mobil, part of Deutsche Telecom, to cover the autobahn with Oracle.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Sparkling Far East props up Burmah

priate that Jonathan Fry should describe 1996 results at Burmah Castrol, where he is chief executive, as a game of two halves. For Burmah that meant disappointment in the developed world of Europe and North America, where the engines of growth are grating alarmingly, but an-other sparkling showing from the developing regions of South America and Asia. where they are purring

smoothly. Burmah has been a champion of the Far East for years now - about 75 in the case of India, where it hung on through the dark years of state ownership - and it is now reaping the benefit of liberalised markets in spades. Hav-ing overtaken North America in profit terms, the region looks set to leapfrog Europe by the millennium to become the group's biggest earner. That is just as well because

it is an uphill struggle in the old First World to persuade consumers that hibricating oil is anything other than a commodity product and with Mobil attempting to get its recent marriage to BP off to a loving start, price competition is intense. In some ways Burmah has become the Guinness of the petroleum sector, its Castrol suffering the same problems as Johnnie Walker stagnant markets, a price war to establish market share and the need to back the sales effort with ever-increasing

amounts of marketing spend. Elsewhere the Foseco speciality chemicals acquisition at the beginning of the 1990s nudges ever closer to Mr Fry's neck-on-the-block promise of 10 per cent margins by this year. It should just about make it in time, after last year's 8.3 per cent, but it takes the sort of cheerful optimism that Burmah's ebullient boss specialises in to view that deal as anything but ill-timed, just ahead of recession in the steel and construction markets it serves. It is no wonder that big da, despite halved gearing at just 22 per cent, until his retirement next year.

The biggest problem facing the company in the short term,

ens to knock a £20m hole in profits this time if the pound stays at current levels. As a result of that, and the reversal of this year's one-off tax benefit from paying a greater propor-tion of the final dividend as a foreign income payout, profits will have to rise by about 13 per cent simply to stand still at the earnings line.

Assuming they achieve that, the shares, up 16.5p to 1,014p, trade on a prospective price earnings ratio of 14. A good long-term hold thanks to the company's enviable toe-hold in the Far East but the shares, down from a peak of 1,167p last October, won't excite in the

> Man Utd on the ball

anchester United's financial progress is as relentless as the club's performances on the pitch. Still top of the league and gun-ning for glory in the European Cup, the club turned in another ressive display with its first-

half figures yesterday. With profits up 42 per cent to £15.7m before transfer fee income of £3.7m, the business is performing with all the style of an Eric Cantona flick. But there is nothing flash

Reporting on the same day as Manchester ling, which took the shine off With average attendances up last year's figures, but threat-

But it retains 10,000 tickets for sale on match days to give "hope value" to its 105,000 chib It is these "occasional" vis-

itors who spend their money in the club shop, buy a programme and dine out at the Red Café after a visit to the Manchester United museum.

Gate receipts, television money and sponsorship funds are all up strongly. And the appointment of a new deputy chief executive to further the brand oversets is encouraging. The club is already looking at merchandise opportunities in the Far East while at home it is talking to three parties about the possibility of a dedicated Manchester United pay-per-

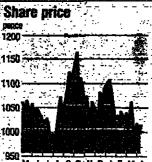
view channel. Further out, the club may need to look at diversification as its cash pile - currently standing at £22m - continues to grow. But for now there is plenty of room for growth with the core business. If there is a problem it is spiralling wage costs in the aftermath of the

Bosman ruling. But the shares - up a penny at 642p vesterday - have come off their peak in the last couple of months after a terrific run. With analysts forecasting profits of £27.5m they trade on a forward rating of 20. Still worth holding.

timmah Castrol. At a glance

Market value: £2.15bn, share price 1014p Frading record 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 Pre-tax profits (Em) Dividends per share (p) 25.3 27.5 30.0 33.5





Moss Bros keeps going like Blazers

hire, is hardly a company to set in-LV L vestors' pulses racing. Yet, after a poor recession, Moss has been quietly building a very decent menswear business, for long the Cinderella of the retailing world. The shares, below 800p as recently as a year ago, have more than followed suit, rising another 15p to £13.975 yesterday, near recent highs.

The reason was another cracking set of results, with pre-tax profits up 41 per cent to £15.9m in the year to January. The figures were boosted by a maiden £428,000 contribution to operating profits from the Blazer chain, acquired from Storehouse last June. But underlying that there was still a very healthy 38 per cent improvement from existing operations. There is still clearly bags of potential in Moss

Bros. Despite extra costs involved in integrating the business, Blazer alone produced more profits in seven and a half months with the group

oss Bros, a name synonymous with suit than it achieved in the whole of the previous year, yet margins are less than a third of the

> The new brand fits into a clutch of high street names which have given Moss near-complete coverage of the market, ranging from Suit Company and Savoy Taylors Guild in the bottom and middle ranges to the likes of Hugo Boss at the fashion end, where from this June it will be joined by the first Yves Saint Laurent branch. Together they have given Moss a tenth of the suit market, a sector whose death was being heralded 10 years ago, but which has been growing at 3 per cent a year since 1992.

Now 164 shops-strong, Moss has identified up to 60 more sites around the country. With net cash of £22.7m, it is well placed to pick and choose. Profits may hit £19m this year, but even with current sales 7.5 per cent ahead and a fourfor-one-stock split, the shares look high enough on a forward multiple of 20.

Equitas weakens with slump in surplus to £588m

Terry Macalister

Equitas, the reinsurance company set up to handle Lloyd's of London's pre-1993 liabilities, released figures vesterday show-ing a significant weakening in its financial position.

The first set of accounts revealed that a projected surplus of £880m on 31 December 1995 had shrunk to £588m by 4 Sep-

that the highest paid executive director was Michael Crall, who picked up a total package of £429,312, including a bonus of £123,893 and a "moving allowance" of £75,565 for the

eight months up to September.
And his basic salary of £183,884 for that period is set to increase to £275,000 per annum while David Newbigging, chairman, earned £205.636 in the eight months and is now on The accounts also showed a basic of £200,000 per annum. £11.2bn while net claims re-

An Equitas spokesman defended the levels of remuneration saying: "We think that they are not overcompensated. The pay is in line with the insurance industry. We need high quality management if Equitas is to suc-

serves remained at £10.5bn. With various extras subtracted this left Equitas with its surplus of £588m, yet the actual level of future claims and payouts re-But nobody is hiding the dif-ficulties facing Equitas. Fig-

mains unclear given the long-tail nature of liabilities for asbestos, pollution and health hazards. Equitas officials claimed that the group's position has not deures in the maiden set of teriorated since September and accounts showed that the group insisted there was no question had collected premiums worth of its solvency being called into

But Mr Newbigging also made clear that names, the traditional investors in the Lloyd's market, could still be in the firing line for stumping up extra He said: "We have two clearly

defined objectives which govern our philosophy and business egy: to endeavour to secure true finality for reinsured names and, in time to endeavour to create sufficient surplus...neither will be easy.

Anditors Coopers and Lybrand qualified the Equitas accounts with warnings about the uncertainty of the reinsurance

But there was good news too from the group.
It has finally settled the long-

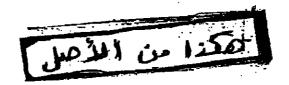
running and expensive liabilities resulting from the Exxon Valdez tanker pollution spill in Alaska. Equitas also outlined plans to move to new premises in St Mary's Axe, City of London.

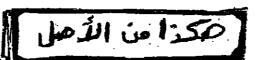
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<u> </u>	Ternover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
CFS Group (F)	4.57m (2.99m)	552.000 (385,000	6.44p (4.77p)	1.1p
DCS Group (F)	19.09m (14.33m)	1.9m (1.2m)	6.21p (4.27p)	0.75p (0.5p)
Soldsmiths Group (F)	70.39m (62.89m)	5.02m (4.46m)	18.12p (15.11p)	7.0p (4.5p)
Home Counties Herrs (F)	37.45m (30.46m)	3.23m (1.73m)	20.93p (11.73p)	5.Sp (5.5p)
intermediate Capital (F)	-H	20.16m (19.07m)	29.1p (27.6p)	15.4p
Manchester Volted (I)	50.11m (29.9m)	19.5m (15.3m)	21.4p (18.3p)	1.9p (1.6p)
Mose Bros (F)	121.95m (87.5m)	15.92m (11.3m)	60.02p (42.53p)	24.0p (18.0p)
MY Holdings (1)	44.96m (42.04m)	6.5m (5.49m)	3.36p (2.76p)	0.8p (0.7p)
Superscape VR (f)	1.9m (1.59m)	-3.13m (-897,000)	-37.4p (-13.1p)	ni .
Trafficmaster (F)	3.45m (2.55m)	-3.41m (-2.48m)		- -
65 B. 65 C.				

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market report/shares

Data Bank FTSE 100 4271.7 +35.1 FTSE 250 4518.4 +3.5

Health shares in the pink as punters seek next winner Health shares were agam in the pink as private investors attempted to pick the next high-flier. The success of Shield FISE 350 2106.4 +14.0 Diagnostic, up from 110.5p this year to 805p last month and 652.5p yesterday, has caused caused widespread ex-citement and sent investors SEAQ VOLUME 683.9m shares. 55,332 bargains scampering, sometimes indis-Gilts Index

criminately, for shares with health aspirations.

Drew Scientific was the first to attract support. The shares to aftract support. The shares surged from around 30p to 240p but fell 47.5p to 147.5p. On Friday Tepnel Life took off and remained strong with the price jumping a further 49p to 125.5p in busy trading. Others, in varying degrees, have caught the fever. Chiroscience, foreing a link with a

science, forging a link with a Nestle's subsidiary Alcon Laboratories, added 7p to 371p and Celltech and Cortecs International moved ahead.

Environmed, 2.5p higher at 20p, have been brushed by the sudden desire to hit the medical jackpot. Biocure, making diabetes kits, gained 5p to 30.5p.
The company is raising cash through a 9p-a-share rights issue and is related to the Monaco-based entrepreneur

Michael Chariton. Shield, with its heart disease detection test, is clearly the health stakes winner so far this year. The shares, in an erratic day's trading, crashed from their peak when some of its US tests proved inconclusive. But they have steadied, helped by the ending of a tap of institu-tional selling as a stake was re-

with institutions at 52p re-cently, said last week it was hoping to extend its technolo-gy to heart disease. Its head-long gallop appears to have Even strugglers like Haemo-cell, unchanged at 5.75p, and ker Wise Speke which cau-



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

points - a two-day gain of 55.1 - to 4.271.7. The start of

the new tax year, however, did not have dealers on their

toes with turnover at best mod-

erate. Government stocks had

a volatile session. Hit early by talk of big US sales, they closed

with gains of around half-a-

display with Abbey National up 18.5p at 760.5p and Barclays

24p higher at 1,053p. Nat West

Securities was said to be ad-

vocating the attractions of

falling 6.5p to 609.5p after

warning analysis profits for

the year just ended would be

banking shares.

Financials turned in a strong

tioned the shares could be running ahead of events. The excitement was not confined to the second-liners. For the second trading day Smith-Kline Beecham attracted US support, leading blue chips higher with a 35.5p gain to 893p. Medeva put on 6.5p to 312.5p and Zeneca, reflecting the launch of its Zomig migraine treatment, rose 22.5p to 1.762.5p.

1,762.5p. Even Glazo Wellcome which lost its latest Zantac in-fringement case in the US, con-fined its discomfort to a modest 4p fall to 1,086p.

The rest of the stock market was in more confident form with Footsie climbing 35.1

"I don't

have to get

dressed to

go to my

for 24 hour telephone banking

bank"

in the £530m to £585m range, below some estimates.

The generator was not the only utility feeling the pioch. Talk of tax curbs and higher rates took its toll with Thames Water off 11.5p to 665p.
Oils were in better shape al-

though British-Borneo Petroleum Syndicate continued to reflect its disappointing Gulf of Mexico drilling report, falling 89p to 1,302.5p.

Metrose, firmed to 20.5p; the group is being split with deputy chairman Robert Adair department with some of the

parting with some of the group's interests. He is paying £2.5m in cash and cancelling half his 34 per cent stake.

BG had another upbeat session as the conviction grew its confrontation with its industry regulator will be less wound-ing than at one time thought. The shares gained 5p to 178.5p, equalling their high.

RJB Mining, figures today, improved 35.5p to 390.5p fol-

lowing its "clean coal" link with National Power, off 3p at

Mini-conglomerate Thomas Jourdan gained 3.5p to 67p as investors, including former Suter chief David Abell, moved to oust chairman Kei-

th Whitten.
Profit warnings hit Universal Salvage 67.5p to 135p and Pordum Foods, 1p to 1.5p. The volume was turned

down at Verity, off 4p at 48.5p. ED & F Man, the commodities group, fell 7.5p to 178.5p on worries over its links with Prism Rail was shunted 50p

lower to 305p on the Save Our Railways report, alleging heavy losses. But the shares rallied to 345p as the company said it 'totally refutes" the report.

Masthead Insurance held at a 122p peak. Goshawk Insurance, thought to be stalking Matheson Lloyd's investment trust, has 6.5 per cent.

restaurants group, looks destined to be the first Ofex casualty. The remaining directors, led by Marcus Leaver, say they are considering putting the company into liquidation following their failure to arrange a rescue merger with another restau-rant chain. Woodstock has

three pub/restaurants. It was market by Austin Friars Securities last summer at 20p a sbare when £600,000 was raised. In November the shares were suspended because of irregularities at its pubs off-shoot, Kingston Inn Co, which subsequently went into receivership.

Betacom, Alan Sugar's thirdstring quoted company, lifted the shares 6p to 65.5p. The electronics group is cash rich

turnover at best moderate 9

93.65 +0.24

← The start of

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Total State Case and the control of the control of

When it comes to inflation figures, trust your intuition

hen intuition says one thing and the figures say another, important. You can see some trust intuition. In the past few days it has gradually seeped through to the markets that the UK economy has been growing faster than the figures initially suggested. As a result, expectations for a post-election rise in interest rates have shifted up a notch: the issue is whether, a month from now, they will be half a percentage point higher or merely a quar-ter, while by the end of the year the services side. it is beginning to look as though they might be one per-

centage point up. There are several reasons for this change in perception. One is that the rise in house prices. always a lead indicator of UK consumption, seems to have shifted up a gear in the first months of this year. Another is the clear evidence of a rise in the rate of increase in earnings. And while the GDP figures do not give any cause for concern, some good work by Lehman Brothers demonstrates they may be wrong. Michael Dicks, an economist, looked at the way in which initial estimates of GDP have consistently understated what happened. Just as the statisticians always seem to find that invisible earnings are higher than they first thought, so there always seems to have been more economic activity

than the numbers initially catch. If this is right, the implication would seem to be that not only is the economy growing

important. You can see some prices. Until this time last year the rise in UK service sector prices was much the same as those of France and Germany (left-hand graph). But since then UK service prices have climbed steadily. The rise in sterling, which is holding down the prices of manufactured goods, does not help much on

The rise in service sector inflation seems to have been associated with a surge in service sector demand. The best leading indicator of the pressure of demand in manufacturing is the purchasing managers index. Since last July the authorities have been collecting data for the service sector too and the first results were published a fortnight ago. The data is split into different categories but Goldman Sachs has calculated a single index from this and compared it with the manufacturing side (right-hand graph). As you can see, since the beginning of this year there seems to have been a sudden spurt in services, while manufacturing has remained flat. This is further evidence that



HamishMcRae

It follows that the new government will

have to tighten policy quickly and since it cannot do much

on the fiscal side. monetary policy will have to bear the burden

The UK service sector

growth is shifting up a gear at prices rather than increa

So the figures are catching up with what is actually hap-pening and the conclusion that interest rates will have to rise, maybe quite sharply, after the election is remforced. But that is the short-term, market response. Financial

markets sleep, drink and eat interest rates. The wider issue, and it is one which we will hear much more of during the next five years, is whether our predominantly service economy can increase its output at a faster rate than in the past, and if so, how? Capacity is probably a more

flexible concept in services than in manufacturing. The lags are certainly shorter, for the unit size of investments, and hence the lead time in getting investment into service, is shorter. So it should be possible for service industries to respond to increased demand more easily than manufacturing. A rise in demand for services, too, is less likely to suck in imports, because a lot of services cannot be imported.

That means that if there is increased demand which cannot be met by increased output, it has to show in higher

imports. During the late 1980s boom, soaring imports acted as a buffer, checking the rise in prices of domestic goods that would otherwise have taken nlace. But that does not answer the capacity questions posed above. There almost certainly is no simple, single answer. It is possible, though, to sketch some parts of a complex one. We know that, provided we approach capacity slowly, we are more likely to be able to stretch it. A slow fall in unemployment is much less likely to lead to a sudden rise in

pay rates than a rapid one. We know too that it takes quite a long time for increased investment in service industries to lead to increased produc-

One of the great puzzles of the past 10 years has been the tiny return that seems to have been generated by all the investment that companies have made in information technology. Part of the explanation may be that the investment has resulted in better quality of service and this is not caught in the output stats. But part of the explanation may simply be that it takes a while for new investment in any industry to im-

Our economy is going through a very rapid structur-al change. Whole new industries are springing up, while existing ones are transforming their way of business. I think it is perfectly possible that we will see radical improvements in productivity of service industries, which will enable some increase in the "natural"

prove productivity.

rate of growth of the economy. But I doubt whether it is possible to do much to foster that growth, for that has to be a bottom-up, market-driven pro-cess. The best thing the authorities can do is to provide a stable macro-economic environment which comes back to that next rise in interest

'Brookside' cast as villain when the accent is on jobs

Jimmy Corkill and the rest of the Brookside cast have a lot to answer for. According to vet another survey on regional accents and their resonance in a business environment, Liverpool comes out bottom on a range

of perceptions. According to the Aziz Corporation, a Winchester-based consultancy, strong regional accounts can be a distinct disadvantage in business. In a survey of 200 managers in medium-sized businesses only 6 per cent thought a strong accent could be a help.

More than 60 per cent judged business people with a London/Home Counties accent to be generally successful. Those with accents from Newcastle and Liverpool were thought to be suc-cessful by only 20 and 16 per

cent respectively.
Newcastle bounced back when it came to honesty and trustworthiness, (the Sir John Hall effect, perhaps?). level-pegging with leaders the Home Counties, while Liverpool came bottom.

Businessmen who sounded as though they came from the West Midlands and Birmingham were perceived to be the most hard-working and reliable, while Liverpool and the Home Counties scored badly. Khalid Aziz, head of the

Aziz Corporation, thinks this unfair attitude to Liverpool could be due to "people's perception that the city has been in terminal decline for decades".

"There again, it could be people watching years and years of Alf Garnett referring to his 'scouse git of a son-in-law." I think the current Brook-

side soap must be a big cul-prit. While former drug-dealer and jail bird Jimmy Corkill has "gone straight", there's still more wheeling and dealing in Brooky than in a Wild West

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Git out of it: Jimmy and Jackie Corkill in Brookside

As for the West Country, where I come from, Mr Aziz found that people regard natives of the area as "reasonably OK but a bit slow off the mark". Obviously a deeply flawed survey.

Jonathan Fry, chief executive of Burmah Castrol, has fathered an impressive quar-tet of daughters. The first, Lucy, works at blue-blooded brokers Cazenove, while the second, Camilla, has clinched a job at Hoare Gov-

Apparently Fry pere advised Camilla to stipulate in her contract with the brokers that she should be entitled for time off on Wednesdays and Fridays to attend rugby training with Harlequins, where she plays Number Eight for the women's team. A proud father says he hopes Camilla may soon play

for England.
The world holds its breath at what Fry daughters number three and four, respectively at Edinburgh University and doing A-lev-els, will achieve-

David Devoto, the recently installed chief executive of Sunday Business, the newspaper, was sacked last Thurs-day, I hear. While Luke

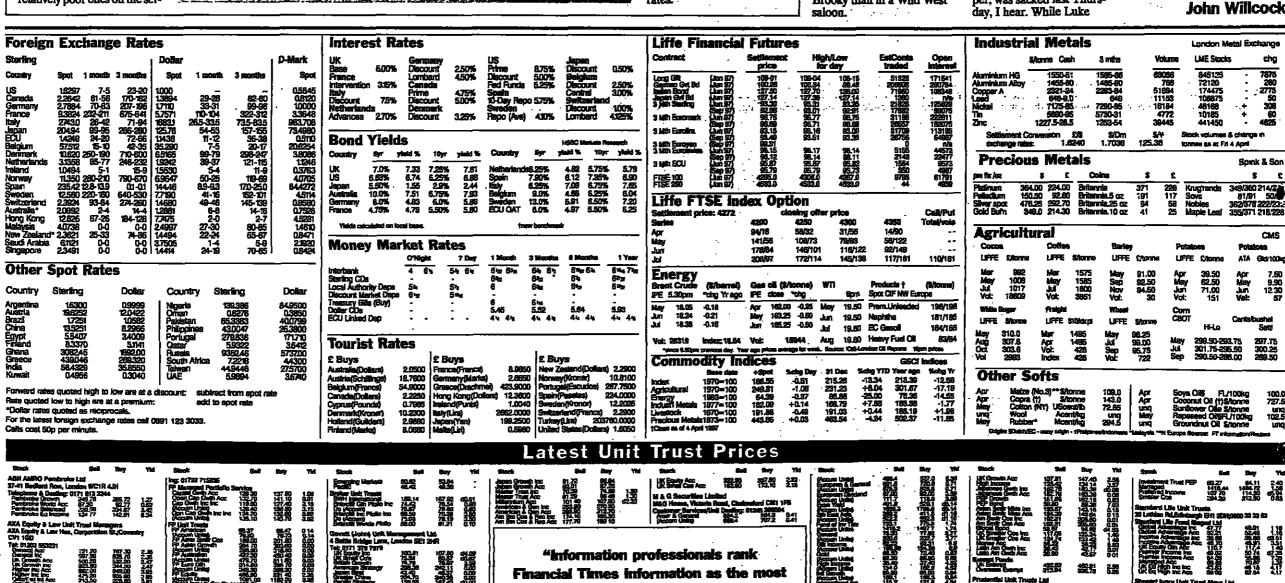
Johnson, son of right-wing columnist Paul Johnson, is the latest majority owner of the paper, it was left to a mi-nor shareholder. Gordon

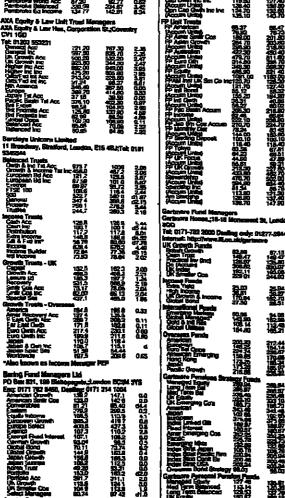
Brown, to give Mr Devoto his marching orders. Apparently Mr Devoto has become quite used to leaving the newspaper's offices in London's Cavendish Square at high speed. Founder and former editor Tom Rubython has hired a security man, a likeable ex-boxer called John Cox, to patrol the building. Mr Rubython owns the lease to the building and whenever the rent falls due he has instructed Mr Cox to prevent other directors of Sunday Business from entering the premises until it is paid.

One person who is still welcome at the building is, surprisingly, Anil Bhoyrul, another former editor of the

Mr Bhoyrul is an old pal of Mr Rubython's and the former is preparing to relaunch Business .ige, an investigative magazine founded by Mr Rubython which he sold to VNU, which closed it. Mr Rubython has rented Mr Bhoyrul space in the Cavendish Square building to

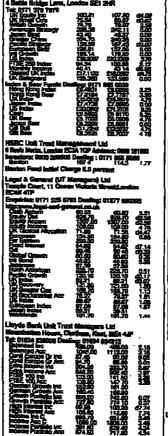




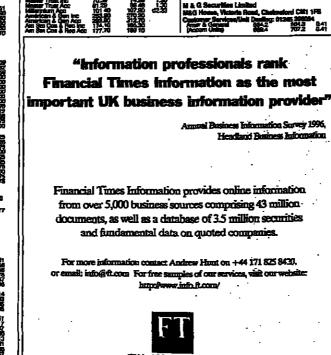


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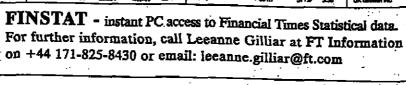
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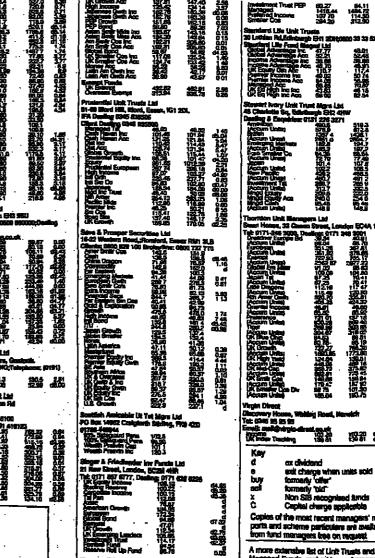


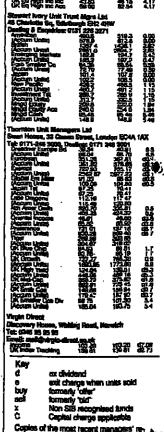
FINANCIAL TIMES













As America celebrates the breach of the colour bar in baseball 50 years ago, Rupert Cornwell considers Jackie Robinson's remarkable career while (below) John Carlin examines the contemporary racial balance in US sport



Jackie Robinson signs autographs in his first game for the Brooklyn Dodgers, an exhibition against the New York Yankees at Ebbets Field

Legacy of the divine Dodger

ill Clinton may have cancelled state visits to Latin America and beyond, but there is one crippled leader does not intend to miss. At around 9pm on 15 April, the middle of the fifth innings will be interrupted in the baseball game at Shea Stadium between the New York Mets and the visiting Los Ancles Dodgers. A black woman in her mid-70s, of screnely striking looks and immense composure, will walk down the players' tunnel and on to the field. Accompanying her will be the President of the United States, on crutches. The two will make their way to a spot near second base. There, Mr Clinton will make an anniversary presentation, watched by probably not a single dry eye among the 55,000 spectators on hand. And for a few illusory instants, America's racial con-

science will be salved.

The woman's name is Rachel

Robinson. Exactly 50 years earlier, at a baseball stadium not many miles from Shea, her husband took the field for the Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first black major league player of the modern era. Baseball is dedicating the 1997 season to the memory of Jackie Robinson. Given America's genius at marrying history, maudlin sentiment and crass commercialism, hyperbole is inevitable. But nothing, not the Robinson stickers or badges or drinks, nor the specially minted gold coins, even the hollow self-congratulation unique to baseball, can obscure a simple fact. Jackie Robinson's breach of baseball's colour barrier was the most important single sporting moment of the American century. That bleak spring afternoon, a decade before its time, the civil rights movement was born, and America's national pastime became truly that - and what's more, at the

home of America's team. In no sport anywhere on earth, surely, is there anything to match the tyranny of nostalgia exercised by Brooklyn's Dodgers. Forty years have passed since the owner, Walter O'Malley, took the franchise to Los Angeles, earning himself a spot in the borough's 20th century

Today, the pilgrimage to Brook-

intersection of Third Avenue at 75th Street you will find the Brooklyn Dodger, "The Most Famous Sports Bar in New York", its façade painted in the team's creamy-white and blue, its interior adorned with team memorabilia, arrayed like holy relics. But Ebbets Field, the Dodgers' beloved old stadium, survives only as a name on a couple of

undistinguished apartment blocks. Saddest of all are a few bedraggled flyers affixed to walls and lampposts, "Bring the Dodgers Back". Earlier this year the O'Malley family put the LA Dodgers on the mar-ket, and Howard Golden, Brooklyn's chief executive, launched a campaign to bring them home from the West

The choice was crucial, for a botched experiment might set the integrationist cause back by years

Coast. Which is fine - except that the price tag is at least \$350m (£220m). double the record paid for a major league baseball franchise. Even in the improbable event that Brooklyn find the money, relocation would be blocked by the Mets and New York's other major league team, the Yankees. Deep down, every Brooklynite knows the Mohican Indians have a

better chance of regaining Manhattan than the borough has of reclaiming its stolen Dodgers. But their ghost grows more luminous by the year. In truth, as often as not. Ebbets Field was half empty. For those of a certain age, however, the Brooklyn Dodgers have metamorphosed into myth, an emblem of a vanished post-war golden age: when order and decency and certainty prevailed, and America's church clock was fixed forever at 10

panella. Duke Snider, and Pee Wee Reese, Hall-of-Famers all. But with the glorious and indelible exception of 1955, they would always lose the World Series to the hated, overweening Yankees. Even that, however, was essential to the myth. The

Dodgers were human, accessible, loveable. Most important, they were underdogs. With every failure, Brooklyn and America loved them more. "Dem Bums", or better still Our Bums, entered the standard grammar of American-English. But nothing contributed as much

to their aura as the arrival of Robinson. His presence on a major league field - a full seven years before the Supreme Court's 1954 epochal ruling that outlawed segregated education and ushered in the civil rights era - was baseball's noblest moment. For once a sport that usually had to be dragged kicking and screaming into the tiniest innovation was leading the way. And "Dem Bums", Brooklyn's finest, were leading baseball with an innovation that would change pro sports here forever. Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson, baseball superstars Ken Griffey and Albert Belie, even young Tiger Woods, all are indebted to Jackie

all began in 1942, when Branch Rickey Dodgers' general manager in Brooklyn, a man who would revolutionise the business of haseball. In those days, American sport was almost entirely segregated. Not since 1884 had a black played major league baseball. True, Joe Louis held the heavyweight championship, and Jesse Robinson (right) passes home plate in a triple steal in a game "Don't know about Owens was the against the Cincinnati Reds. During matches Robinson would be the you fellows," Mumost acclaimed ath- target of players' and spectators' racist threats, taunts and insults

lyn is a melancholy affair. Only a few clues remain of the original Boys of Summer. An old Dodgers pennant flies atop the town hall, and at the state of Roy Came state of Roy

separate universes. Then Rickey produced his masterstroke of enlightened self-interest. He knew the team had to be improved after the war, and what better source of fresh talent than the Negro League, which by then was producing individual talents to match anything white baseball could offer. A deeply religious man, Rickey opposed segregation on moral grounds
- but he was no less concerned with the earthly wellbeing of the Dodgers. The recruitment of a black player thus had an irresistible logic. The problem was, which black player? The choice was crucial, for a botched experiment might tear baseball apart on the field and set back the integrationist cause by years, if not decades. Finally his eye alighted on Jackie Robinson Roosevelt, an exserviceman playing for the Kansas

City Monarchs of the Negro League. His pedigree was outstanding. As an athlete, Robinson had it all: strength, co-ordination and a speed befitting the brother of Mack Robinson, predecessor of Owens as world record holder at the 220 yards sprint. More important still, he possessed the right temperament. He was brave, dignified and acutely aware of his impending place in history. Rick-ey was looking for a saint as much

Robinson asked at one point: "Mr Rickey, do you want a ball player who's afraid to fight back?" "No", came the answer, "I want one with the guts not to fight back. You've got to do this with hits and catches and

stolen bases, Jackie. Nothing else." A few months later Robinson joined the Dodgers' top farm team, the Montreal Royals. So brilliantly did he play that his promotion was inevitable. The brief, momentous announcement came on 10 April, 1947: the Brooklyn Dodgers had purchased Robinson's contract "with immediate effect". He would be paid \$5,000, the then minimum salary for a major leaguer. Five days later, he ran out on to Ebbets Field before 25,623 spectators,

to face the Boston Braves. Hitless in four at bats, Robinson's debut that chilly afternoon of April 1947 was utterly forgettable. "I did a miserable job," he confessed lat-er. But his season was a triumph. Named Rookie of the Year, he helped the Dodgers to the World Series (where, needless to relate, they lost to the Yankees). His hitting, his swooping plays in the infield and above all his gazelle-like speed on the bases were electrifying. And that despite an outpouring of abuse from rival players and crowds that might have driven a lesser man to suicide.

> In those days a disproportionate number of players were white Southern boys from a poor background. On 15 April, a players' strike was planned at every National League game if Robinson took the field. Only poor communica tions, plus the example of people like Stan Musial the great hitter of St Louis Cardinals, averted

sial told his team-

pleasant days of my life," Robinson later wrote, "22 April, 1947 brought me closer to cracking up than I had ever been." It was the Dodgers' first series in Philadelphia, and racial loathing gushed from the dugout housing the team from the City of Brotherly Love. "Hey, snowflake, which one of those white boys' wives are you dating tonight?" and "They're

waiting for you in the jungles, black boy," were two of the milder taunts. But elsewhere it could be almost as bad. During some especially vicious heckling later in the season, Fee Wee Reese called a time out. He trotted across from shortstop, put his arm around Robinson's shoulder, and looked steadily out around the crowd.

Robinson had it all: he was brave, dignified and acutely aware of his impending place in history

It was a gesture worth dozen a grand slam homers - not least because Reese had initially asked to be traded to another club when he learnt a black player was joining the Dodgers. At the end of the season Robinson almost had a nervous breakdown. 'Few people know about it," Don Newcombe, a black pitcher recruited by the Dodgers in 1948, revealed last year. "Rachel, God bless her, took him on a three-week boat trip when it was over. It saved him."

nd the breakthrough had been made. In July 1947, Larry Doby became the first black to play in the American League, for the veland Indians, and one by one the other clubs followed suit, last among them the Boston Red Sox in

clubs found to turn down the greatest black players. Hank Aaron had "a hitch in his swing," sniffed one the decency to blush when Aaron hit the 715th homer of his career in 1974 to break Babe Ruth's record - a feat which predictably earned him racist hatemail by the sackful. The peerless Willie Mays, it was deemed, "couldn't handle a curveball," The deficiency did not stop him clubbing 660 home runs, third on the all-time list. Mays would explain: "I just had to be three or four times better than the whites.

Even integration on the field could not expunge the endless indignities of pre-civil rights America off it: the segregated restaurants, hotels and asport in the south, and the refusal of two stadiums in Florida to allow Robinson to play there in spring training. "They said the floodlights weren't working... pretty strange for an af-ternoon game." The Dodgers would temporarily settle the problem by

spending March in Cuba.

Jackie Robinson never made the sad migration to Los Angeles. The Dodgers traded him to the cross-town Giants in November 1956, and three weeks later he retired, with a career batting average of 311 and having helped the Dodgers to six National League pennants and their lone world championship. In 1962 he was elected the first black member of baseball's Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. New York. Later he would upset many blacks by becoming a Republican and supporting Richard Nixon. Always, though, he was a passionate advocate of civil rights and racial equality. For his impact on American society, Muhammad Ali is the only athlete who runs him close. White-haired and half blind. Robinson died tragically young in

1972. The medical reason was diabetes, but many believe that the ordeals of his baseball years hastened the end. He would be 78 today, and surely disappointed at how race still obsesses and distorts American life. "Jackie was very impatient for change," Rachel Robinson said recently. "There is considerable retrenchment in our society now, and 1959. Even so the process was grad- if he were alive today he would think ual, and wondrous were the reasons we have not come far enough."

Talent takes the higher ground in a ruthless world

Professional basketball players in the United States carn an average unnual salary of \$2m (£1,25m); baseball players \$1.1m; American football players \$767,000. Since more than 1,700 of the 3,200 sportsmen who play in the three big leagues are black, this would suggest that any lingering controversies about racial equality in American sports have been smacked firmly out of the ballpark.

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TC.

But are these figures deceptive, as some would argue? Do they mask a subtle but powerful racial bias? A recent article in US News and World Report noted that all of the club presidents and chief executives in Major League Baseball and the Na-

as were 93 per cent of those in the National Basketball Association.

These statistics could be interpreted as the stark expression of a a truth that dare not speak its name. Or almost doesn't dare. Al Campanis, a senior official at the Los Angeles Dodgers, bluntly volunteered the thought on network television 10 years ago that blacks "may lack some of the necessities" to succeed as baseball executives. "They are gifted with great musculature and various other things. They are fleet of foot. As far as having the background to be a club president, I don't know. Campanis was out of a job with-

in 48 hours, which showed how far

Jackie Robinson in addressing the cosmetic niceties of race. A handful of other white sports figures since have endured suspensions and fines for less offensive deviations from the politically correct norm.

Yet the question is still asked, notably by civil rights leaders whose job is to ask such things, whether America has truly moved away from the stereotype of black sportsmen as muscled athletes short on brains. The answer, everything indicates, is that progress has been made and it is both remature and unfair to cast American sports in a harsh racial light. There was a time when the un-

written rule in basketball, according

three black players at home, four away and five if you were losing. But that was before black Americans gained full political equality with the passing of the Civil Rights Act 33 years ago, since when American sport has emerged as arguably the country's most reliably fair equal opportunity employer. As for the point about who owns the teams, money in America remains concentrated, for obvious historical reasons, in white hands and so the statistics about presidents and chief executives could be seen as bordering on the gratuitously tendentious.

society - had come since the days of to an old joke, was that you played found in the number of head coaches at the leading clubs. At first glance the figures are not encouraging. In major league baseball there are three out of 28; in the NFL there have been three out of 30, now there are two. In the NBA there are five out of 29.

But no less revealing are the figures for the number of assistant coaches, for these provide a better indicator of possible progress to come. In the NBA, where each team has six coaches in all, 28 out of 157 are black - about the same percentage as play on the field and higher than the percentage of blacks in the population as a whole, which is

black. In the NBA 25 out of 59 are remarkable athlete but also because

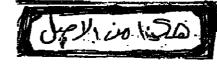
All of which indicates that it is simplistic to argue, as the Washington Post did last week, that while the colour barriers have been lifted on the field, off it they still stand. As for the brawn versus brain debate. American professional sport is first and foremost a ruthless business and anyone who imagines that the black men occupying vital coaching posi-tions in basketball, football and baseball are there for reasons of charity is inhabiting a world of paranoid fantasy.

Michael Jordan earns \$52.6m A better test of how far things have just under 12 per cent. In the NFL (£32.8m) a year, if you add the en-advanced on the racial front may be 85 out of 380 assistant coaches are dorsements because he is a

he is blessed with a superior tactical intelligence. None of his millions of fans - black or white - is in any doubt about that.

As for golf, a game which requires more mental discipline than any other, whatever stereotypes might remain Tiger Woods is busy smashing them to smithereens.

The truth about American sport today is that there is no purer meritocracy. Talent, not race, is what defines success. Money counts too, at another level, but in a couple of years both Jordan and Woods will be in a position to buy their own teams and, if they so choose, to name themselves ncesidents and chief everatives too



A Liverpool gain in a free vote

I was at Aintree as Lord Gyllene crossed the line yesterday but I had not really been at the 1997 Grand National. To have "been there" you had to have lain side by side with other refugees in the Everton Leisure Centre or danced with silkclad jockeys at the disco in Liverpool's Adelphi Hotel. Those of us who turned up yesterday were like guests at a stranger's party.

It was not hard to find the grandees at the not-so-grand National. They were the ones with the badges made tatty with three days

of use and a carefree air borne of release uncertainties. Some were unshaved..others were clothes that looked like they had been slept in. There was a good

reason for that. Every one had a tale to tell, from the locals who had come as an act of faith in a sporting institution to others who had simply not had the resources to go home. They want shooting, one woman said about the IRA, who are being held responsible for Saturday's bomb scare. The paradox of her drinking in the Irish Bar was lost on her.

An Irish band played, Beamish was being supped. "Can you imagine anywhere else being so forgiving," one man said. "In other countries people would be strung up for playing music associated with the enemy." Not far from him another man with an Irish accent was telling everyone who would listen how ashamed he was of the IRA.

Different people had different emotions. The brother of Joan Hall was in Maryland yes-The National should have been the climax of his trip, instead it will go down as the day his wife was grateful she could return home at all. She had an angina attack as she waited outside

Guy Hodgson

listens to the tales of the faithful returning to Aintree

Aintree in the cold for three hours on Saturday and the fam-By can only shudder at what might have happened but for the help of a policeman who called an ambulance.

"Fazakerley Hospital was like a morgue," Joan Hall said. "There had been a coach crash

'I saw people inviting from recent, bigger complete strangers into their it was the free Nahouses to offer cups of tea' terrorist's most sinister and

and people were laid out all over the place with collars round there necks. There were dozens of people from the races desperate for medication that was trapped in their cars. I know they had to ring one doctor in Australia because a man did not know what he was on. Middle of the night it would have been over there.

Elsewhere on the night after the warning before, people were counting the expense of the postponement. One man, Roland Puzey, an agricultural student from Newport in Shropshire, had made three trips to Aintree in three days. Saturday, Sunday to collect his car and Monday to watch the horses actually jump. "It's an act of de-fiance," he said "To show that the terrorists can't win. I don't want to think about how much it has cost."

Ken Mobey, was struck at the egalitarian nature of Saturterday, his holiday running out day's suffering. "Everyone had before the horses could turn out it the same, the VIPs like the rest of us. I saw England's cricket captain. Mike Atherton, wandering around looking totally lost while my son bumped into Dick Francis. He's a multi-millionaire, a writer of

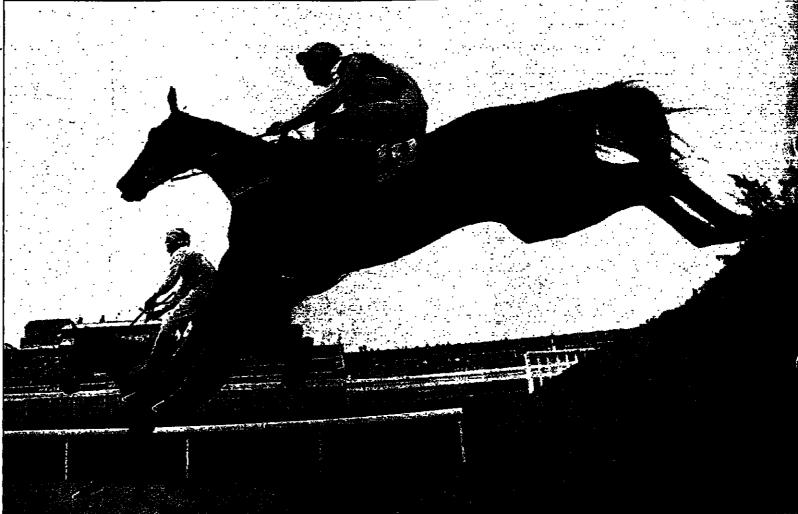
dozens of books, and he was

purple with the cold.
"I'm from Manchester and we are wary of Scousers but I have to say that they couldn't. have been better. They were so generous. I saw people inviting complete strangers into their houses to offer them cups of tea. They even let people sleep there. They did the race

The 1997 race belonged to Liverpudlians. They came to the fore on Saturday and came again in their thousands to

Aintree yesterday, a cavalry charge of people pouring in even a minute before the off. tional, the Scousers National, locals anxious to support an event laid low by the

subtle weapon, the phone. "It's our event," Lynne Jones, who lives a good gallop away from Aintree, said. "It belongs to the country, but it belongs to Liverpool too. I just felt I had



Going clear: Lord Gyliene and the ill-fated Smith's Man (far side) sail over Aintree's water jump yesterday

Grief for Pitman as Band dies in a fall

to ask as attention concentrates on the winner, but experience tells you that it will not be whether but how many. This year the answer was two.

Smith's Band and Straight Talk were the horses among the 36 setting out yesterday evening which did not return, and while the atmosphere around the top enclosure was pure party, the red eyes of Joe Tizzard - the 17year-old rider of Straight Talk told a very different story as he departed from the weighing

The most disturbing thought is that perhaps on an afternoon when many in the crowd were first-timers drawn in by free ad-

It is the question no one wants mission, the race escaped rela-

tively lightly.
The previous steeplechase around Aintree, the two-mile race named in honour of Red Rum on Saturday, had left a disturbing trail of death and injury out on the track, as the runners had set off at a ridiculous pace and, one after another, suc-

cumbed to fatigue or errors.

As the big field lined up yesterday on rock solid ground and with 48 hours worth of frustration on both sides of the bridle, a lunatic gallop to the first fence and beyond seemed sure to bring another dose of may-

Strangely, though, the early stages saw most of the field Two equine fatalities mar the party atmosphere. Greg Wood reports

jumping safety. It was only on racing. Now, as Smith's Band the way back towards the grand-broke his neck and died instand that the adrenalin started to kick in, and with it the

Straight Talk, trained in the West Country by Paul Nicholls, broke a leg on the fence before The Chair, while just moments later, Jenny Pitman and jockey Richard Dunwoody were reminded that misfortune does not spare the famous.

Mrs Pitman, in tears on Saturday when the National was postponed, had been swept up

stantly at the 20th, she was plunged back into despair. That horses will die steeplechasing is a simple fact of racing life, but the problem with the National it seems is that the blood is so high, the determination so great that accidents are all but inevitable.

Consider the post-race com-ments of Peter Niven, who partnered one of the favourites, Avro Anson, yesterday: "Charlie Swan's horse kicked mine in

said. "And mine almost collapsed. Because of that be jumped the last circuit running

If we do not ask the obvious question - should he have been running the last circuit at all? then plenty of others will.

Yet the race which, after Foinavon's National and the "National that Wasn't", may come to be known as the pushchair National, still had much to gladden the heart and nowhere more than in the enclosure where Camelot Knight third - at odds of 100-1 was being unsaddled by his trainer,

Nigel Twiston-Davies. owner, absorbing the moment

with his wife and infant daughter, was beside himself with de-

"It looks like Tiffany's going to get some extra Pampers," he said (although it has to be said that Tiffany appeared distinct-

ly unimpressed.)
"I can't believe it. I feel like we've won the race. This wasn't even his ground, because he needs the mud. We'll be back here next year and he will win it." Gates added.

At that moment Tizzard emerged bleary-eyed to set off on a long journey home. Gates can be forgiven his exuberance, but you can only hope that Michael Gates, the chaser's the attention of the Fates was

NOTTINGHAM HYPERION 2.00 Bentnose

4.00 Shaheen 2_30 Tippitt Boy 4.30 RETURN TO BRIGHTON (nap) 3.00 Silent Miracle (nb) GOING: Good to Firm. STALLS: 51 & 61 stands side; rest inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best for 50 & Gr.

Left-hand, oval course. Flat and galloping with easy turns.

Course is 2m cast of city off B086, Notingham station 2m. ADMISSION; Centenary
Sand \$12 (Juniors, 6-21) years, \$8); Taterswills \$8 (Juniors & Jubilee Club OAPs \$5,
Students \$11: Silver Ring \$2 (Jubilee Club OAPs \$2). CAR PARK: Free.

ELADING TRAINERS WITH BUNNERS: J Dunlop — 18 winners from 98 runners gives a success ratio of 18.4% and a less to a \$1 level stake of \$18.82; H Cecil — 16 winners, 57 runners, 29.1%, -\$10.42; Mrs J Ramsden — 10 winners, 73 runners, 13.7%, -\$9.12; R Hannon — 10 winners, 133 runners, 7.0%, -\$75.40.

ELADING JOCKETS: L Dettor! — 24 winners, 126 rides, 19.0%, -\$2.66; Pat Eddery — 18 winners, 75 rides, 24.00%, -\$25.6; W Carson — 15 winners, 103 rides, 14.6%, -\$4.2 %; E Fallon — 11 winners, 111 rides, 12.0%, -\$14.67.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bentance (2.00): Chadwell Hall (visored, 3.30), winners in Last Seven Days: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Magleal Dancer (2.30) & Pointer (3.30) have been sent 248 miles by Mrs Nerys Duffield from Axmouth, Devon.

O OO I ANGWITH SELLING HANDINGAD (MIASS OF SHEEL)

1 1	2 NN	LANGUITH SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2875 added
H	200	3YO 1m 2f Penatty Value £1,985
1.5	1 343050	ROCHEA (B) U Texacide; Mrs H Macauley 9 7M Feoton 1
13		SPURBULEICS DS (II (DDTR)) K POINTS Q A D D A A A D D A A A A
13	. .30+	SRIVET THE NUMBER (116) IA () REDIEN) M. Roon 9.2
1 4	· uu-u	2021 NUMBER US / 1 ILONG WIPER PORTMERCHIST IN MARKER D. 1 P. D. C.
ŀ	o +0+u0	MISS BANGELLINA (36) (A. J. Prichen) M. Priches S. 9.17 T. G. H.
16	כנדו ככוה נ	CONTROL OF COLUMN (ALCOHOLDE) (Mark Inhestra Revenue) M. Inhestra 9, 11 District Co. E.
L	יבשטי	NELLIJ TREBE (1991) COM TRACE STAN Trakler R 11
18		NESCALLO DESALIGNEO MATERIA MATERIA CONTROL DELLO CONTROL
9	9 005-0	CUNTRUL PREAK (12) (E. J. G. YOURS) A FOSTOY 8.5
1 1	N 30000	COUPLAIN HUNG COURT (AND CONTROL A STATEM A 5
		PORCENT PLUMICK (1990) (Larges Sacrater) R Restorant 9.1 Profes Colorest 4.4
	www.	IOP IN FER (22D) (George W Smith) A Forder 7 13 P Photoeta 77 12
1 5	U-00	NEIGHBROWN CL3) IK A HARM R Exhau 7 17 C C Marine 44
	- UUU-	MCCHIGE (137) (Str Smot Lycet Green) J Payre 7 10 C. Restore 4.
1 1	5 0006	PATRICK (12) IT R Pearsoni D Burchell 7 10C Cogian (7) 2
1		- 15 deciered -
11	ரீஸ்ச்சார பக்க	Pro Tet 10th Torre handleres seriebe Markets Tor Ch. Bracket Torres.

ı	13	06-0	NOCKONSUM (13) IR A Faheyi R Eahey 7 10	F Norton 11
ı	1-	UVU-	MECHILLE (13/) IST Smort Licet Green! J Power 7 10	G Randard 4
ı	15	0005	PATRICK (12) IT R Pearson! D Burchell 7 10.	C Code (7) 2
ı			- 15 declared -	
ı	Affrica	era ugod	ht: 7st 10b. True handicap weight: Mechilie 7st 5lb, Patrick 7st 1lb.	
ı	8ETT	C: 7-2	filmor Four Sport, 5-1 Skiney The Widney, Spondulicies, 11-2 Recetto, 10-	مسلمسط معتلة ا
1	Rock	sa. Fool	sh Flatter, 12-1 Bestmose, Helio There, 14-1 Control Frenk, Patrick,	16.1 officer
١	1996	Esperto	3 8 1 G Bardwell 7-1 () Pearcel 15 ran	TO-T ORNERS
ı				
Į	<u> </u>	~~	EDE CIMITETIUM I MANDENI CON UND VOI AGO DI GA	
ı	112.	301	ERF CINDERHILL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4	,350 added
1	_		ESF CRIDERHILL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4 2YO 5F Penalty Value £3,204	
	1	2		Dai Erbiano E
ı	2		evergaci (Mrs Carbine Pancer) K Harmon G ()	D Herbert 46
	3		MCCARS BUSINESS (INDIOS INDIOBINADA IN P. Machan Q A	Li Talabarit 1
	1 2		misereva namen al metrum e amerika e n	. 200
ı	5			
ľ	6	3		
	7		PARATURA TILIUNIA INTLI I I INTII M Medele & O	P &
	8	o	COURT CANDOLISM CAUCAL STATE IN R. HARRY A.C.	9 سناستو 2
	9			
	10		MESS ALL ALONE (Bren T Exticle J Glover 8 9	0 mater 2
	1		- 10 declared -	

ELTING: 9-4 Bernardo Ballotto, 7-2 Tippiti Boy, 9-2 Michrest, 6-1 Minkesot, 8-1 Menns Business, Regen, 12-1 Mins Ali Alone, 14-1 Magical Denoir, 16-1 Deno Patrol, Ruzan, 20-1 others, 1994: West Fet Gri 2 8 9 L Dettot 14-1 (P Evens; 5 ran

PORM GUIDE

Bernando Bellotto and Tippitt Boy came un against the previously-acced Weelen Plict at Kempton 10 days as and finished second and third respectively, reparated by threoqueners of a length. Both should soon to placed to advantage in these early-secon maders but Weelen Plict has been one of three two year-old across-suready has season for Richard Hannon and he should from whose he search with newcome Balanest. Being didner against the roll is the close start for Balanest, but histograms, the roll is the close start for Balanest but has a unbedient two year-old included York's Group Two Germook Scales, is brief to go a bit and may last be that highly-freet for his first owing. Brain Meethan's Means Baginess could like up to his roame, life in the Labe watched in the bethirg.

3.00 FLYING HORSE MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (CLASS-D) £4,900 added 3YO 5f Penalty Value £3,359 006-00 AQUATIC QUEEN (12) (J Johnston: R Weaver 8 11. 5-4 CORENCINE) (8) Oiles Patrole J Williams) G Margarson 8 11. 426-44 LAMARTIA (13) (Perk Lare Roong Ales D A La Trobe) J Bass

7 OU3- TAJREBAH (USA) (162) (Hamdan / Melaturut) P Velwyn 8 11 ______ R Mills 7 _____ 7 declared - BETTING: 6-4 Silent Miracle, 7-2 Tajrebah, 9-2 Lamarita, 6-1 Mosche, 8-1 Sang d'Antibes, 12-1 Cor-BETTIME 0-5 STANDARD CORRES.

Inchill, 25-1 Aquatic Queen.

1996: Spicing 3 8 11 M Hills 3-1 (W Hagges) 10 ran

FORM GUIDE

SILENT MERICLE was recard only once as a two-year-old and left first form a long way behind at Donosst-er last month on her reappearance with her close that behind Cadeaux Cher and Mile High over six furiongs. She ran well and will be all the sharper for it, and the form looks all the better for number-up hills High war-She ret well and will be at the sharper for it, and the form looks all the better for nurber-up Mille High war-ning here less week, when Corthodill steeled in 30 lengths back in Outh. Heaving been their ower seven fur-longs as a two-year-old, Tajhelanh was back to as furlangs for her third and final start and came up with an improved third in similar company at Lecester. The Daytur Biy was saying on well in the final futnong end may have improved sufficiently from two to three to succeed at this less! Lamantha will need to stap up on her fourth in a Folkesprore maldern auction on their reappearance, though site showed she was capable of much better when buched off at Window last June on only her second doting. The Folkeston's run was her first in almost nine morners, so improvement should be forthcoming, Sang D'Audhebes showed promise in the first of her two starts as a juverale. She's a possible danger, unless the Wenting newconter Mordale, turns out to be above everage, something the market should soon highlight. Selection: SELENT WRACLE

3.30	BAGTHORPE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 a ty Value £3,382	dded 6f Penal-
1 05-533	WRJ, DO (15) (Arthur E Smith) M Meade 4 10 0	
2 2-4050		K Sized (7) 6Y
	CROSS THE BORDER (14) (F D Sault) D Nicholis 4 9 12	Alex Greener 2
	BEAU VENTURE (USA) (109) (D) (Mrs A L Stacey) B Passing 9 9 8	Spenier 11
5 124623		K Pallon 20
6 050-35	SERIES WITH THE BAND (8) (D) Allert 9 McMethon 6 9 4	K Darley 18
7 14260-	POINTER (B) (D) (In For The Crack) Mrs N Dutlield 5 9 2	و <u>امخال</u> اط کے۔۔۔۔۔
	GORETSKI (12) (D) (BF) (P D Savill) N Trikler 4 9 2	
9 000054	FAMIE AGAIN (13) (Mrs J R Ramsden) Mrs J Remeden 5 9 0	
10 346304	ZADI DANCER (12) (S Arbert) D Nechola 5 8 11	Dale Checo 12
	SOUND THE TRUMPET (12) DAS JA Michald R Spear 5 8 11	R Handla (8) 15
	MAGIC MELODY (162) (First Chance Racing J Speaking 4 8 10	
	DASHEND DANCER (13) (K Nicholis) D Show 68 10	G Carter 14
14 3-5	MASAZINE BAP (47) (Mrs Area L Sanders) Pat Mitchell 4 8 9 Am	anda Sanders (5) 19
	GAY BREEZE (161) (Mrs V McGeough) P Feleste 4 8 1	
		R Ffrench (7) 1
	COLLEGE MIGHT (13) (Mrs Christine Dunnati) C Dwyer 580	N Yarley 8
	GREY KINGDOM (130) (Mel Baltain) M Britain 6 7 13	
	MAYSIMP (34) (Mrs. Joan M. Chirres) B Baugh 4 7 12	
20 100000	MISS CAROTTEME (1A1) (D) (M) Ryan) M Ryan 4 7 11	G Bootings 7
21 64-546	MARGARETROSE ANNA (24) (Frank Dobby) B Baugh 5 7 10	17 (6) الأسمد ليسير
	BATO DEET (40) (Ms J Druce) J Pouton 4 7 to	A McCarthy (7) 22

Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handican veight into Debt 7st 7th.

BETTING: 11-2 Fasse Agist., 13-2 Charlwell Half, 7-1 Goveratd, 9-1 Painter, 12-1 College Wight, Sing With The Band, 14-1 Bess Venture, Palry Prince, Mersent, 18-1 Cross The Border, 20-1 Grey Wagdown, Miss Caroticone, Zain Dancer, 25-1 Magazine Gas, Sound The Trumpet, 33-1 others.

1998: Tymess 3 8 13 T Spoke 14-1 (8 Paling) 22 cm

FORM GUIDE

When the ground gets and at Musseburgh the spirituse on the steadystrough investibly troos to the stand side for the better ground and GORETSIN's high days became a disadvantage there 12 days ago. In the crounstainces he ran well to firsts fourth behind Chemicast and at least that would have get the edge on thm. His best form was in the fast part last season and, not only is he back to he fest whiching mark, he has plenty of early proce to cross from a low daw should in the recessiny. On a point of handicapping carding is plenty of early pace to cross from a low draw should it be necessary. On a point of handkouppin better treated than Pames Agéna, a busy mere last season without better efforts were when the Mr Bergarea at Newmarket (61) and her close fifth behind Double Bounce at Newcostle of a re-Mr Bergurac at Newmariest (6) and her close lifth behind Double Bounce at Newcastle off a rating a strangard a half higher. The reason for such a drop is that she was very dispoprinting in her later reces, though the way she kept on from off the pase once seven furiously at Caterick on her reopporancie suggests a lot of the ability as stall there. Checkwell Half corres here in good spirit after being cought close home on the Foresand at Southwest less week. This tough, garufne performer entit just an all-westher performer, though, the half after Agan (80 behier in) and Gonetals (8b publ) behind when running high Dorham to a head at Dorncaster on soft ground at Dorncaster in November. Pointer lost his noblent tag when whiching over seven furforgs at Salesbury tast May and came book in the following two months to will over this tip at Windoor and Selectiony again. He first counting the season was an encouraging this behind Existen Prophets and Selection as Seadown at Seadown off a handings rating off 95 and was heaving the first unit from his present yand when a second at Seadown off a handings rating off 95 and was heaving the first unit from his present yand when leading the stands side group for a long way behind Amon at Newcastle a fortingin ago, Noo zaed only 65 — and more than a stone better in weth Chadwell Hall companied to Dorncaster in November — he as at least postered to Beau Venture, a difficult horse to cauch right.

in the exuberant mood before the head at the 13th," Niven 4.00 LOWDHAM MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 340 mm 54yds Penalty Value £4,219 MUNARIS (USA) (Harndan Al Maktoum) A Stewart 9 0. MUNAMES (USA) (Hamdan Al Makoumi A Stewert 9 0... MOBEL LAD (James Horivett J Duniop 9 0... GEOMA (EAS) (H H Moniss) G Wagg 9 0... 6 PEN FREIDO (12) (B Haggies) W Haggies 9 0... 500332 - SELECT CHOICE (169) (L Fust) A James 9 0... SHAMBEN (USA) (The Thomograford Corporation) H Ced 3 SHAMM (160) (Sheiri Mohammed D Loder 9 0... 64 SPY (MOLL (175) (H Romonod-Masson M Soute 9 0... 0 WILD CITY (EAS) (218) (Abdulish AB B Harbury 9 0... 0 EPWORTH (185) (H H Fam) J Glover 8 9... SELECT (244) (Cabero And Hudd's) B Pellins 8 5 SELECT (244) (Cabero And Hudd's) B Pellins 8 W J O'Connor 6K Darley 12W R Switzbure 14M Riesmer 10 5- SELVER JUBILEE (344) (Caleary And Hudd's) B Palling 89...

With no many lightly-raced and well-bred newcomers it's impossible to be degrantic about anything, but there's no despite SHAWRIA and Says Knooll showed plenty of promate in their finited opportunities as two-peer-color. Showm's cirty appearance was against the highly sated Happy Velentine over seven fusions; at I Yamoush. Though no matter for the impressale witners who is already being bound as the Derby winner, he hapt on to Though no metach for the impressive whose who is already being source as the being writer, he reprise thing in highly-creditable third and runser-up Sheseni did the form no learn when touched off at Oracle er next time. Say Nincil is the first nide of the season for Welter Skinburn and them is a fair change for could lick off with a winner. Green at Newmarkst in October on his debug, Say Nincil performed much better at Lebessier 12 days later and was going on well at the finish when fourth in a mile maken. He's the type it improve considerably in his second season and, being by Shiney Heights, will get a for further in time. On case should lack step up considerably on last season's sole effort, while arrays will here to be legs on new comer standard and step up considerably on last season's sole effort, while arrays will here to be legs on new comer standards, Henry Ceci's first runner of the season.

4.30 LANGWORTH APPRENTICES HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,875 added 1m 54yds Penalty Value £2,008 20330-0 UTINOST ZEAL (12) (Theres Lessing and Mrs P Hearts) P Plants 4 9 10

=		Compa
2	200A)-2	EUROBOX BOY (12) (D) (N Coverdale) A Janis 4 9 2 Conver 2
3	. 4415-	LEBEND OF ARAGON (\$20) (\$) Beard J Glover 3 9 1
4	4001.06	SHONTARE (12) (Paul Dearly M. Johnston 4 9 1
5	054340-	(CEV) SEMIOD (167) (0) (4 F.C.A. Let) J Spearing 5 8 10
ē	012100-	MEZZORALMO (196) (D) (T R Prival K Montan 588
7	06-4444	ARZAME (USA) (13) (Descring Limited) D Cosgrove 688
ė	061000-	RECHARD HOUSE LAD (134) (D) (D Morsil) R Hollinsheed 4 8 4
ğ.	65060-0	AMEER ALFONAFI (12) (Lime Street Recing Syndicate) B Meeter 484
10	190315	SHOULDBEGREY (158) (D) (Bren A Lev) W Mur 4 8 4
11	5000/06	RETURN TO BREINTON (8) (2) (Han Punks) J Bradley 580 Foreign 13
55	000085	RAFTER-J (12) (D) (W Month John A Harts 5 8 C
13	400.000	ONE OF THE EYE (13) (7 Anthorn)) Poston 47 12
14	49-2532	QUEENS STROLLER (22) (R E Pescock) R Pescock 6 7 12
15	122250	BOLD HART (26) (D) (left Peecs) Peecs 12 7 11 Line Monodelf (5) 4
18	62060-0	REFINIZZO E 600 600 (Morthable Lottle Recipt (CLO) fol Editain 6 7 10
17	CAMPION.	CHARLESTICK CORR. ET S. Felschill P. Raischa 4 7 10
12	40000	CHORY BABY (167) (D) (J M Badley) J Bradley 5 7 10
		= 18 declared =

-18 declared 18 declared 1 FORM GUIDE

FORMS SHIPS:

EUROBOX BOY goes well for an insepenanced jodely and had today's inter up when a close third (promoted to second) behind Erico sites; making the recipital joint sever fusions at Yermouth in September. Eurobox Boy, who'd won either who of that run, is better mixed by a mile and will be through a large state leading until compact by Nedmack, at this distance over an eater funding and a half at Pollestone on this return 13 days ago, Azzani, it after a spell on the sit-venture; was a mis-proad fourth, almost four lengths back, and should be held on only 30, better teams. Necessments bed a good spell last current when whings back and should be held on only 30, better teams. Necessments bed a good spell last current when whing back and a being mouthed off, all when an emister-victors, On only a 30 in layer man, then the second win he one sed to be fairly rested, but in all those three case he was stoned and it will be interesting to see how he goes without them. Bold Mabit goes to wall for braine's with Lydin Pearso. Whether the 12-feer did with a so so-commodeting for roday's young other remains to be seen but there's no doubting his all-seather form goes han every chance of polary's man. Severalise might find the top stretching his starries and find-med Houses and, when or it a Bach select in September from Samara Song and Shouldhough the best produce of a second recipies.

Spy carries Swinburn on a return mission

Walter Swinburn is back raceriding for the first time this year at Nottingham today. The three-time Derby-winning jockey has just one mount, on Spy Knoll for the leading trainer Michael Stoute. Swinburn delayed his start to

the 1997 season until the comnletion of a court case which saw his being fined £500 after he admitted assaulting a restaurant owner and damaging a glass door. During the hearing at Newmarket it emerged that he has been suffering from an eating disorder which reduces his tolerance to alcohol.

Swinburn's return is in the same race as that chosen by several other leading Newmarket trainers to saddle their first three-year-old runners of the new Flat season.

Henry Cecil, who failed narrowly to beat Godolphin's Saced bin Suroor for the trainers' championship last year, runs Shaheen in the Lowdham. His stable jockey Kieren Fallon has the ride.

Shaheen and Swinburn's Spy Knoll are opposed among others by Shawm, from David Loder's powerful stable, to be ridden by Kevin Darley.

Shane Broderick, one of Ireland's top jump jockeys, is to be transferred to the National Rich habilitation Hospital in Dud Laoghaire, Co Dublin, for treatment to the serious injuries he

day last week. Broderick has been in intensive care with neck and spinal injuries. In a statement issued

received at Fairyhouse on Mon-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Silent Miracle (Nottingham 3.00) NB: Shawm (Nottingham 4.00)

on behalf of his family yesterday, Dr Walter Halley, the Turf Club medical officer, stated: "Shane Broderick's condition remains unchanged."

David Bridgwater was yes terday recovering well following surgery on the arm he broke when brought down on Time Won't Wait in the Red Rum Chase at Aintree on Saturday.

Bridgwater underwent a twohour operation at Fazakerley Hospital in Liverpool on Sunday afternoon and is being kept there for observation for two or

KELSO 2.00: 1. JESSOLIE (R Burne) 6-5 fax; 2. Neck Rose 11-1; 3. Pertitands Phyer 16-1. 13 ran. 1%, 4. (G Richards, Grejstoke). Tota: 52-40; £1.20, £2.10, £4.20. DF. £14.00. CSP. £15.67. Tho: £108.20. 2.30: 1. GALLANTS DELIGHT (Mr A Rob-

230: 1. GALLANTS DELIGHT (Mr.A Rob-non) 9-2; 2. Ensign Enert 9-4 for; 3. Pen-nine View 10-1. 12 ran. 8, 5. (Mrs C Johnston, Pervish), Tota: £8.10; £2.50, £1.10, £2.30. DF: £8.50. CSF; £14.84, Tito: £8.40. 58.40.
3.00: 1. REAL TONIC (Captain A Ogden)
5-2; 2. Tall Measure 14-1; 3. Gerama
Lagand 16-1. 8 ran. 10-11 fav Coqui Line
(88). 9, 20. IG Rotherds, Greystokel. Toda:
621.0; 51.60. £3.10, £2.10. DF; £28.10.

CST: 431.RS.
130: 1. ASK ME LATER (G Cahil) 3-1
130: 2. Nijway 9-2: 3. Harricane Andrew 201. 9 tan. 4, 1½. (Mrs S Bradburne, Cupan,
Tote: £3.60; £1.10, £2.30, £8.00. DF:
£9.70; CSP £15.01. Tricast: £200.52. Tric: £57.50. 4.00: 1. WELL APPOINTED (G Los) 2-1:

2. Killbuily Boy 7-1; 3. Done Well 11-10 fev. 4 ran. 2, 17. (B Mactaggart, Hawlet). Toba: £2.40. OF: £9.10. CSF: £12.14. 4.30: 1. NOW YOUNG MAN (Mr Chris Wisor) 13-2; 2. Royal Jostor 13-8 lay 3. Kush-baloo 5-2, 5 rate, y., 2/y. (Mrs A Swinbark, Richmond). Tota: £9.30; £6.10, £1.00. DF: £11.30. CSF: £18.54.

5.20: 1. RASCALLY (M Foster) 8.1: 2. Bookmaster 7-1: 3. Cersh Box 3-1 fav. 9 ran. 4., 4. Miss L Sardall, Tadosster). Total 55.10: 52.20, £1.90, £1.20. DF: £20.40. CSP. £53.15. Micsel: £181.96. Mics £37.50. Pleaspot: £83.00. Quadrot: £25.60. Place & £92.92. Place 5; £48.91.

SOUTHWELL 2.15: 1. WATER GARDEN (M HES) 7-2: 2. Mr Paradise 5-1: 3. Honourable 7-4 km. 9 ran. Str.-hd, 114: (G Wragg, Nammarket). Tota: 54.70; £1.10, £3.00, £1.10. Dr. £19.80, CSF; £19.49. The: £5.70. 245: 1. IRLAYS RELATIVE (R FRENCH)
11:10 fax; 2. 800 Genet 7-2; 3. Sharp Hosty 20-1. 8 ran. 1%, 4. (R Cuest, Newmarlett, Total ELSO; 51.00, 52.10, 55.80, De-

RACING RESULTS 3.15: 1. UBERSEN (S Whaworth) 12-1; 2. Young Annabel 11-1; 3. Bagshot 8 1; 4. Nobio Canonies 20-1. 15 ran. 7-1 for Square Doel (Sith), Ni., 3. (P. Howing, Godzinnigo, Tote: £14.90; £3.20, £3.10, £4.20, £2.50. DF: £61.60. CSF: £135.27. Tricost: £1,171.47, Tno: £366,70;

3.45: 1. THE BARNSLEY BELLE (D Pears) 7-1; 2. Desert inveder 6-1 fm; 3. Cats Bottom 7-1. 15 ran. 4, 2%. (J Eyre, Ihrisk). Total E5.40; £1.90, £2.60, £1.30. DF: £30.00. CSF: £41.08. This: £37.00. NR: Suppl May 2. Sweet Mate. 4.15: 1. GRAND CRU (D Denby) 15-2; 2

Pharty Dancer 9-4 (as; 3, One Off The Relia 3-1, 10 rm., 1%, 1% (R Crass, Sedg-field), Tober £10.00; £2.30, £1.10, £2.30, DF: £9.20, CSF: £23.41, Trio; £9.40, NR: Cer-rolls Marc,

4.45: 1. BROCTUNE LINE (A Culture) 11-2: 2. Touch'n go 7-4 fm; 3. Bonne Ville 11-1. 11 ran, Ni, 3. (Aim M Rowley, Sairburn). Tota: £8.10: £1.80, £1.60, £2.70, DF: £11.70, CSF; £15.45, THESST £107.38. THO: £151.60.

Jackpot: Not won (pool of £21,-184.67 car-ned forward to Nottinghem today). Placepot: £17.20. Quadpot: £19.30. Place 6: £23.93, Place 5: £17.32.



WOLVERHAMPTON

2.15 Barwell Boy 2.45 Princess Efisio 3.15 Tayovullin 3.45 Sedbergh 4.15 Who Nose 4.45 Silk GOING: Statubard, DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 6f to Jun 4f.

Lourse in Nuf town in A149. Status Im. ADMISSION: Chib. 515, Tatier-alb 10 OAF nembers of Diamond Club 545. Viewing Restaurn 525.10 including enhance and meal. CAR PARE: Prec.

BLINEERED FIRST TREE: Ath Chemical he (2.45), Who Nose (1.15). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Thyovollin (2.15) & Sedbergh (3.45) with at Southwell on Thesday. LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Shafflabayes (2.15) & Setbergh (3.15) sent 170 miles by Mrs M Receivy from Lingstale, Clevetand.

2.15 JARVIS MEDIAN AUCTION MADEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 3YO 8F 0425 BANNELL BOY (13) I L Hans 9 0 L Charmock 5 CONGER ARALL 5 Willers 9 0 S Drome 6 04 DANCING BESSERV (1811) E Wheeler 9 0 A Dank (25) 4 00540 DORTY WORLD' Giner (180) F Lor 9 0 A Continue 50 652025- MON BRUCE (140) W Mar 9 0 Dans 9 Dans 9 Their 3 0 05000-0 ROCKOROWERECLOCK (8) P Earls 9 0 F 1 Earls 3 4 K S SUMSHIES (2.5 W Haghs 8 9 F 1 M H Challer 1.8 005000-0 THEWRISHTONE (137) 6 Oldrojd 8 9 M H Challer 1.8

2.45 PHOENIX LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 100yds

3.15 STARBUCK FILLIES HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 7f PS SALDRE G LOWS 9 0 ______ Debton 7 7 50015-0 TRADING ACES (12) M 98 9 7 ____ aniel is the Greening Company To Topogon, nonnersystance is vost resonance to the Company Visiting. See with the Contract Library Company Comp

0000- DAYRELLA (173) W Most 8 10. 33-2035 PATINA (7) (8F) R Holinshead 8 6 3630 QUALITAIR SILVER (8) J BORRONIE ..F Lynch (3) 5 BETTING: 11-4 Yayovalin, 4-1 Yazing Aces, 9-2 Jangyayes, 5-1 Qualitate Shore, 8-2 Faytu, 7-1 Pathes, 8-1 Dayrelis

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Tenerife's turn in Europe's spotlight

Football

A glimpse of glamour beckons for two of Europe's more unfashionable clubs when Tenerife meet Schalke 04 of Germany in tonight's Uefa Cup semi-final first leg in the Canary Islands.

While Internazionale and Monaco, who play in the other semi-final, can both claim a glittering past and would provide clamour opposition in the final either Schalke nor Tenerife we figured prominently either Europe or even in the more rthy confines of their doestic competitions.

Schalke have lifted the Germa in championship seven times, but not since 1958, and they cur-levelly lie seventh in the Bunde liga. Tenerife have won no maljor honours since their forma tion in 1910 and, after their 3-1) defeat by Celta Vigo at the wee kend, are moored in ninth plage in the standings.

Even so, their coach, Jupp Heirnckes, who graced the Bunies in his playing career, can be excused for thinking that Tenerife deserved to be drawn in the weaker of the two semi-ing and training later in the day finals after overcoming some of had to be abandoned. in the weaker of the two semi-

Europe's best teams in earlier rounds.

The Spaniards knocked out Lazio of Italy and Feyenoord of the Netherlands before a dramatic extra-time win over Brondby of Denmark in the quarter-finals. The delights of Europe, though, have affected Tenerife's league form in recent weeks and this was reflected by

Saturday's defeat We couldn't find our position on the field, and that's why we lost," said Heynckes, who was formerly at Borussia Mönchengladbach, Bayern Munich and Eintracht Frankfurt.

The short-term good news from the game was that none of Heynckes' players were injured. The long-term bad news is that a well-publicised row over flights means that Hevnekes

may not stay on. Heynckes wants to take the team to away games in chartered flights rather than the regular flights preferred by club management. His patience was strained to breaking point when the return flight from Celta arrived home at three o'clock on Sunday morn-

The Germans, however, have been left to rue the fact that the tie may be decided by the men off the field rather than those on it. The absence of injured strikers Martin Max and Youri Mulder for the rest of the sea-

son will be a huge blow. Max and the Dutchman Mulder, who helped steer the club into the last four with a quarter-final win over another Spanish club, Valencia, were both injured in the the goalless draw at Karlsruhe in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

ation on his left knee and could be out of the game for up to eight months while Max, who has torn ankle ligaments, is not expected to play for six weeks. We have no alternatives up front. This has obviously been a double blow." the general

Mulder underwent an oper-

manager, Rudi Assauer, said. The options are not obvious with David Wagner the only other striker in the squad although Belgian Marc Wilmots could play up front.



Barcelona's Ronaldo heads his 25th goal of the season during Sunday's 4-0 win over Sporting Gion Photograph: AP

Hoddle endorses United quest Barnwell's peace call

GLENN MOORE

Manchester United will win this year's championship and reach the final of the European Champions' Cup. That was the ringing endorsement from Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, as United flew to Germany vesterday for tomorrow's European Cup semi-final first

leg against Borussia Dortmund. United were further encouraged by news of an injury crisis for Dortmund. Matthias Sammer is already suspended and Julio Cesar, lus natural replacement, is injured. Jürgen Kohler and Andy Möller are doubtful while the striking pair. Karlheinz Riedle and Stéphane Chapuisat, have knocks but are

expected to play. The comment: "The pressure of matches is talking its toll," is usually come away with a result. They have learned a lot from this season."

Neville and Ole Gunnar Solsking result. They have learned a lot from this season." ascribed to Ferguson at this stage of the season, but yesterday it came from Omar Hitzfield, Dortmund's coach. United travelled with a full squad.

"The quarter-final win over Porto will have given give United immense confidence." Hoddle said. "They will approach Dortmund the same way showing maturity and seeking to weather the storm. Sammer's suspension is a hell of a blow to Dortmund, especially at home. That is where they will be looking for him to be at his most dangerous, breaking out from the back and causing United problems. They rely on him and I have a good feeling United will

the Turin defeat to Juventus and have grown as a side," Hoddle added. "What happened then was unfortunate but it is a sad fact of life that you learn more from the downs than you do from the peaks. I hope we can do that at international level by learning from what happened against Italy. Manchester United have certainly done that. If they play

Juventus in the final, it would be closer than close. Even if they do not, I think they will win the championship and they will be much better equipped for Europe next season

One reason is their young olavers. David Beckham, Gary

of the ground. They had been re-

Friday, with officials of the An-

is staging the match on behalf of the West Indies Cricket Board.

with Helps and Holder on Sun-

day that had failed to resolve the

issue and the pair were advised

they were still persona non gra-

ta. But no less a person than the Prime Minister. Lester Bird,

had intervened on the previous

day and advised the journalists

rested when he tried to take a

The ACA had held a meeting

Two of that group are English, and Hoddle added: "The good thing is that United, like Liverpool, have a lot of English players. It was not always the case when we were doing well in Europe before." Hoddle also had a few words

on the Frenchman. "He [Cantona] is the sort of player who responds to semi-finals and finals. Look at the FA Cup final, when his little bit of magic won the game. He popped up and the match was won. I think that is his style now: he might not influence a whole game but he can turn it in a moment.

United's record profits,

managers over an extension to the season were made yesterday by the League Managers' As-

Manchester United's Alex Ferguson wants the season extended past the 12 May deadline, but has been opposed by his counterparts. Arsenal's Arsène Wenger and Roy Evans of Liverocol. "Come the end of this season, all interested parties must get around the table," the LMA chief executive, John Barnwell, said. "Maybe it has got to the stage that the governing bodies take things out of people's hands and demand that we come down to an 18-team Pre-

That issue is of great concern

Calls for peace talks to cool the to the Football League, which and Stevenage, the only three dispute between Premiership is fighting the loss from next season of a Uefa Cup place for the Coca-Cola Cup winners. Uefa, European football's governing body, announced three years ago that unless a nation's top division had 18 clubs or fewer, the winners of the secondary cup competition would lose their automatic right of entry to the Uefa Cup. "We're not going to

take this lying down," David Sheepshanks, the chairman of the Football League, said. Liverpool have emerged as the favourites to sign Israel's captain, Tal Banin, from Hapoel Haifa. The 27-year-old goalscoring midfielder is out of contract in the summer and could move on a free transfer.

Macclesfield, Kidderminster

serious contenders for the GM Vauxhall Conference title, have all met the criteria for entry into the Football League. For the first time since Halifax went down in 1993, the League's bottom club will be relegated. Kilmarnock have confirmed Bobby Williamson as their new

manager. He has been in caretaker charge at Rugby Park for three months. Five spectators were crushed

to death when stadium officials celebrating Nigeria's 2-1 World Cup qualifying victory over Guinea on Sunday failed to open gates for the crowd to leave. Only two of the five gates of the National Stadium in Lagos were opened as over 40,000 people tried to get out.

Rafter was drunk in Cup tie

The Australian Davis Cup captain, John Newcombe, had to defend his No 2 singles player, Pat Rafter, after an admission that he went on court drunk during the weekend's quarter-final vic-tory over the Czech Republic. Rafter said he was inebriated after a night of celebration when

he arrived at Adelaide ground

for his reverse singles match against David Rikl on Sunday. "I was still drunk coming here this morning," Rafter told reporters after Sunday's match. "I started sobering up half-way through - I felt great in the third set," said Rafter, who beat Riki in three sets in the dead rubber. Australia, who won the tie 5-0, took an unassailable 3-0 lead after the doubles on Saturday, prompting a team celebration that night. Newcombe was unhappy that Rafter, ranked 43 in the world, had made his admission but defeuded the player's profes-sionalism. "It was not too smart of Pat to say those things," New-

ments have been exaggerated." In their World Group semi-final in September, the Australians will meet the United States, for whom Andre Agassi rallied from a two-set deficit to lead his side to victory over the Netherlands on Sunday. Agassi beat Jan Siemerink 3-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 to give the Americans an insurmountable 3-1 lead. Martina Hingis, the new women's No 1, showed another dimension to her growing

combe said. "But I feel the com-

game in beating Monica Seles 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 on Sunday for the Family Circle championship at Hilton Head, South Carolina. A week after destroying Seles 6-2, 6-1 in 44 minutes to win

the Lipton, Hingis needed more than two hours for her sixth title this year. Her streak of 31 match victories is the equal sixth-best run of all time. Seles, who has not beaten Steffi Graf or Hingis in five matches since her return to the tour in 1995. fought off three match points in the ninth game of the final set before eventually succumbing

West Indian batsmen struggle to find form

Cricket

TONY COZIER reports from St John's, Antigua West Indies 62-3 v India

India scored all the early points when the rain-plagued fourth Test finally got under way here yesterday. With the first three days eliminated by a combination of rain and a sodden outfield, the match was reduced to

Efforts to have it abandoned and replaced instead by either one or two one-day internationals, or even to have the match restarted from scratch, were futile on the previous afternoon and the teams assembled yesterday knowing a result would be beyond them. But there were still personal records and a psychological balance at stake

When Courtney Walsh won the toss on a pitch that, fully protected from the weather, was seemingly full of the runs always on offer at the Recreation Ground, his stated intention was for his batsmen to enjoy them-

selves. Instead they struggled. Their problems began in the second over when a slack stroke outside off stump by Stuart Williams produced an edged catch to first slip off the tall last

Sherwin Campbell, was the victim of a spectacular piece of fielding by Ajay Jadeja, who hit the stumps at the bowler's end with Campbell, sliding home. inches short of his ground.

stage where he had amassed his record 375 against England three years ago, but the left-han-der found his timing initially away and needed 25 balls before getting off the mark. By then he had lost Shivnarine Chanderpaul who prodded forward to

bowler Abey Kuruvilla, and maica Observer and Keith Holdhalf an hour after lunch they had declined to 90 for 4. Williams' opening partner,

This let Brian Lara on to the

Anil Kumble and provided a catch off bat and pad to forward short leg for 24. Immediately after lunch Carl

Hooper stepped down the wicket to the left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi and hoisted him out of the ground for a huge six, but Joshi's revenge did not take long. Hooper had made 26 when, as he is wont to do, he surrendered his wicket to a soft shot, dabbing an ordinary delivery to Mohammad Azharuddin at slip. By then Lara was finding the middle of the bat but it had not been a good

that their accreditation would not be withdrawn. They were therefore surprised when they were escorted from the box. taken to a nearby station and made to leave. A photographer, Gordon Brooks, was also ar-

photograph of the eviction. 5 Chanderpaul c Layman b kumbie24

rais: 1-u 2-32 3-40.
To bet: RTC Moker, NC O Browne, C E L Ambrose, F D Rose, I R Bishop, T A Watsh, MOM: V V S Lavman, A D Jadep, R S Drawd, "S R Tenduliar, S Ganguly, M Ashanuden, tN R Monga, A Kumble, S Josh, A Kumwila, B K V Prasad. session for the West Indies. During lunch, a posse of po-

Ireland beaten but still in with a chance

The Ireland captain, Justin Benson, remained upbeat yesterday despite losing a thrilling er of The Nation of Barbados out ICC Trophy semi-final to Kenya in Kuala Lumpur. The Irish came within seven runs of a hisportedly involved in an altercation on the rained-out first day, toric victory which would have guaranteed them a place in the tigua Cricket Association, which

1999 World Cup in England. A half-century from Derek Heasley, 35 from Benson and an unbeaten 24 from Peter Gillespie helped Ireland to 208 for 9 in their 50 overs in reply to the Africans' 215. Ireland will now face the loser of the other semifinal between Scotland and Bangladesh, with a place in the

1999 World Cup at stake. Benson, who had eight seasons at Leicestershire, said: "I think the difference was Kenya have played a lot more one-day cricket than us and against better quality opposition. Their spin bowler Asif Karim was the real difference with his four wickets."

It could have been different had Alan Rutherford not missed the chance to stump the Kenyan captain. Maurice Odumbe, when he was on 17. Odumbe went on to make 67 and claim the man of the match award.

Ireland expect to bring back their vice-captain. Alan Lewis, for Thursday's play-off. He missed the semi-final after being hit in the chest by a ball during the group game against Bangladesh.

Sale pair may face RFU probe

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWETT

Sharp practice or the politics of envy? Sale's startling progress to-wards a first Pilkington Cup final and a place in next season's Heineken Cup is about to be overshadowed by the latest development in a year-long wrangle over the Cheshire club's mightily effective All Black pairing of John Mitchell, the play-

er-coach, and Simon Mannix. the goal-kicking outside-half. English Rugby Partnership, the management board set up to control domestic club competitions, is so deeply concerned at the legality or otherwise of the two New Zealanders' presence in the Sale side that they have asked the Rugby Football Union

to investigate. Furthermore, tus is no more than a convenient ERP is planning to tighten next season's Courage league registration regulations to force all non-EC players to obtain work

permits. Unable to play here as a pro-fessional, Mannix is turning out for Sale as an amateur while earning his corn by working as marketing executive. Mitchell's permit covers his coaching role but, according to some rival clubs, he is pushing his luck too far by playing as well. Sale deny that charge.

To further complicate matters, the Overseas Labour Service is now involved and the Home Office is primed to act on its findings. If the Whitehall mandarins decide that Manaix's amateur sta-

smokescreen, the issue may have to be sorted out in court rather than in one of the committee "As far as we're concerned.

we're watertight on this," said Howard Thomas, the Sale chief executive, vesterday. "Both players have perfectly valid visas covering their presence here and both have been properly registered under the league regula-

tions currently in place. We've taken the best advice from counsel and we have no knowledge. of any reason why John should not play as well as coach or why Simon should not play as an amateur if he so wishes. If the authorities decide there is no place for an amateur. I would find that

Alan Watkins will appear tomorrow

decision obscene. What next? Will they stop people playing bridge at weekends?"

Newcastle, meanwhile, will take account of video evidence before deciding whether to dis-cipline Nick Popplewell, their Irish prop, for punching Scott Murray during the weekend match at Bedford. They will also be looking at the incident in which their wing, Tony Underwood, suffered a broken jaw - the re-

sult of a tackle from Paul Hewitt. In Wales, protests over plans to establish an eight-team premiership continued vesterday. Cross Keys, who, like Llandovery, have had their promotion ambitions dashed by the move, are considering boycotting the rest of the current programme despite proposed financial compensa-

Hickstead's year in jeopardy

Equestrianism

GENEVIEVE MURPHY reports from Hickstead

The sum of £400,000 will have to be found, in sponsorship or other financial aid, if Douglas Bunn's All-England Show Jumping Course at Hickstead is to hold a single fixture this year. The Nations Cup meeting, scheduled to run from 29 May

to 1 June, has already been can-

Show (10 to 13 July) and the British Jumping Derby (14 to 17

August).
"In 1996 we had sponsorship of £500,000, but that came to an end just before Christmas," Bunn said vesterday. Silk Cut. who have terminated their sponsorship deal, made a severence payment of £200,000 but this does not cover running costs which amount to nearly

LPGA LONGS DRIVE CHALLENGE (Lincoln, Calify: Final scores (US caleas stated; 285 A Screnstam 73 68 71 73 (non ar second play-off hole); P Kometan 71 77 67 70, 286 J Stephenson 74 70 70 72; I intester 72 68 73 73,

THE TRADITION (Desert Mountain CC, Scotts-dain, Arid; Fluxi scored (US unless stated); 298 C (Mogan 46 66 67 67, 272 | Asht (Uspan) 65 68 70 68 274 | Jacobs 65 68 70 70. Select-ed; 298 1 Jackin (GB) 68 72 77 76.

celled. The same fate threatens
The Royal International Horse

Film per year. Even if Hickstead
remains closed for 1997, maintainance costs would use up the

severence payment.
"We asked the Sports Council for £400,000 as a lifeline for 1997. They mentioned the sum of £100,000, which would have to be matched by the sport or a sponsor," Bunn said. He has dug deep into his own pockets over the years to help fund the venue, but cannot afford to do so for much longer.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of co-favourites for the US Masters, which begins on Thursday, Nick Faldo, Tiger Woods, Greg Nor-Lehman and Fred Couples are all rated at 16-1 by Ladbrokes, making it the most open Masters to date.

Australian rules AFL: North Methousine 12.14 (86), Carton 8.12

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Méricaine 4 Toronto 2; Oritago Mater San 5 Detroit 3; Naneses Ciry 12 Ministeria 2; Teus 9 Bartimor 3; Califord 3 Nam York Yarriess O; Seattle 8 Boston 7 Inn 10; Ciryeland 10 Anchem 8. Cinvestor 10 Archem 8.

NATIONAL (EAGLE: Albrit; 11 Cheago Cubs 5-12t game), Albrita 4 Cheago Cubs 0 (2nd-)/ame: Rendo 3 Cincarnati 2; Colorado 6 Vantos), Houston 3 St Duss 2 Ibs Angles 6 Pds. Ourn 11: Prodecipina 3 San Dego 2; Rea Vois Med 4 San Francisco 2.

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BOWIS

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Alem) to Hearth Cross (M Held) 20-9; Destorcusto (P McGarmarcs) to 32 Needs (I Mustica)
19-13; Presson (R Messey be Bauset (I Rouse)
19-15; Folkestone (S Charlson to Cupters (D
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19-16; For Revers (A Messey be Bauset of Rouse)
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sons (N Binghali) of Wey Valley (I Susset) 16-9: Blackood Borough (N Burous) of Hounelow (P Cater) 20-17; March (L Miller) of Concorda (N Jameson) 18-13.

licemen arrived at the press box

to escort Horace Helps of the Ja-

A brilliam hundred from Aravinda de Silva, who fut 134 off 131 balls, helped Sri Lanka to a 51 run win over Pakistan yesterday to secure their place in the final of the thangular Sharjah Cup cick-

UEFA CUP SEMI-FINALS FIRST LEG

VATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION Didhem v Ekmingben (7.45).....

Texto DWISION
Barnet v Scurthurpe (7.45)
Cambridge Utd v Northauspton (7.45)
Derington v Cartiale
Denesster v Cartiff
Manafeld v Ruthurs (7.45)
Minne S Deckerster (7.45)

GM VALDUALL CONFERENCE
Dover v Stevenage (7.45)
Southport v Morecupe (7.46)
Woking v Bronsgrove (7.46)
SEME PROFESSIONAL INTERNAL

Football

Football

Sest replays the LENGUE Promise Distalone Post-posted Statumer Sext 19 April: Rath Rodes v Ranglars (phina) 15 April: Cett. v Abouteen (phina) 20 April: SUMBARS LATE RESULTS: World Cop African zantar Groups One (pagest: Nagres 2 (Amostate 65, 76) Garnes 1 (Centras 96): Resirable (Hengo 4 (In-) 52, 59, 82, Wore 87) Bushrable Fase 3 (Zongo 15, 65, Santou per 40). Test bree 1 Nagons (P3, Perio); 25 Garnes (3-6). Group Yeo (Access, Chemish Linita)

KZS LEAGAIR Premier Divisions Chortose v Bothhar Wood, Hendoor v Grory (T.45); Cabert City
v Hendridge; St Albarra v Yearling Yeord v Staintes
(T.45). Pirst Divisions Bothor Review v Bogson
Regs; Bosingsodie v Wanno & Hennam; Bentramped v Hamodon; Martise v Thorne; Todeng &
Minchan v Chephan; Libridge v Worthing; Wodingham v Britecon, Second Divisions Bentred
v Legitors Bacterial v Bentring Chefur v (Bury;
Culier Row & Rombod v Edgeson; Horston v Harrel
Hempsteal; War v Christons Striken. Bentred
Hempsteal; War v Christon Striken. Bentred
Hordos; Worthood LEAGUE; Premier Divisions & Northwood;
UMBORO LEAGUE; Premier Divisions. Bombor
Bridge v Cobyn Ber; Bacteri v Affrece; Marmo v
Fridde; Whor v Entiry. First Divisions. Bombor
Bridge v Cobyn Ber; Bacteri v Affrece; Marmo v
Fridde; Whor v Entiry. First Divisions. Attantom
LR v Hethrefiect; Paulin v Completion; Gertha v Whitley Bay: Hamograp Toyan v Masback; Wannigan v
Grazi Halvourd; Weisergrap v Ouzon Astron; Wolson v Boarlova Pari, Areston.
R MARTINES LEAGUE Premier Division: Camandige City v Rameston (T.45), Crawfor y Merthyr
Tythi, Crawford of Annier Striken.
R Martines League Premier Division Colification
v Foother Affriche; Inothedge v Extension v Paget
Rangers; Rothwart v Gearthers; Surion Colification
v Forbyr Affriche; Inothedge v Extension Paget
V Dudlo; Seuthern Divisions Buchangen: Towardege
v Chromester; Weymouth v St Leonards; Strimons.
Loweston.

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

SPORTING DIGEST 1 (Neem 25) Eaget & (Westhould: Nemble 1 (Dusch 75) Turnea 2 (Neem 15, Bacta 65), Yep tree 1 Turnea (3-9); 2 Ubera (3-4), Green Three Protects-Netherly Congs 2 Yearing 59, 65) South Africa () Top tree 1 Congo 13-7); 2 South Africa (3-4), Green Feer 1 Congo 13-7); 2 South Africa (3-4), Green Feer 1 Congo 13-7); 2 South Africa (3-4), Green Feer (Batter-Beigl: Gabon () Moreon 4 Juliandarder 55 min - Donad Donable: (Prestange: Seen Loone 1 (A Camera og 23) Green 1 (L Camera per 65); 1 top tree 1 Moreon C-44; 2 Soora Loone 3 4), (Winness of each group coully be me fruit), Westel Cap Consocial serie (Baspady, BC); Camado 6 (Salcadro (), Retina Languer Main 1 Simone 75) Juerdus 5 (Jugnet 13, 59), John per 32, Vien 71, 41, Amortos 73), Septidus Languer Depotrou La Coruta 1 Real Zangess

Genestern Vighee (A.D.; Geet Yarmouth v Wood-bridge Hadleigh v Clectern Herwich & Pantesion v Stowmarker March v Woody, Sudbury Wor-dens's v Wispech: Woodyn v Watton, JEMSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Berneton Heath Har-

leguns v Enstegic Thatcham v Ride Sports.

MORTH WEST COUNTIES LEASUE First Division:
Buracough v Northwich (7.45). Floodist Trophy
sent-Braiss first leg! Boods v Peruch (7.45); Nowcastle Town v Yournat Old (7.45).

NORTHERM COUNTIES EAST LEASUE Premier
Divisions North Ferrity v Interzelde: Thatchey v
Sheffield. League Cop sami-finals: Auction V
Brigg: Portobact v Ossett Town.

SCREWAYS DRIRGET LEAGUE Premier Division:
Chard v Burolord (7.45); Mangatshed v Thetron
(7.45); Paucon v Cheppenham. Toringan v
Berstagol.

Bernstools.

WHI.SPORT finited Counties Lengths Premier Division: Percent & Evenbury, St. Noors v Destrough; Securit & Lingth Collegy Sterny v Sternyon: Securit & Lingth Collegy v Sternyon: Laurer SUSSEX COURTY LEAGUE First Division: Burgess Hill v Settley; Habston v Hassocks; Colleged Hill V Settley; Habston v Hassocks; Colleged Hill V Settley; Habston v Hassocks; Colleged Hill Security Habston Devoter (April 15) Add First Division: Devoter House, Whitspiele v Herre Bay.

O. Preoch League: Lane 1 Sestel 1; Guintemp 1 Cars 1: Pots St-German 1 Rennis 1: Rancy 2 Stas-bourg 0; Montpellier 2 Bordeous C: Nantes 1 Man-selle 1; type 1 Auseine 0; Le Hearte 0 Metz 0; Nice 1 Carnes 1.

PRESENTATI-MEDISTRUCT CLASSET, (New Orleants), Faxis scenes (SS unless states), 272
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72 68 64 72, S McCarmon 65 69 71 71, 277 R
Cochron 70 71 67 69, 278 V Knocke (Jac) 69
74 69 66, S Laway 72 71 96 69, J McCasbol
(Sp) 72 67 67 72, T Tolics 74 71 66 67.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City v Bany; Uon-sentificad v Holywell; Rhyl v Flott. RISH LEAGUE COGA-COLA Flotodiit Cup finel: Gordpora v Glension or Wessor Park, Belland, HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF SRELAND Premier Physics Shelbourne v UCD (7.45). PONTINS LEAGUE First Division (7.0): Shelfield Uni v Blackpool; Notis County v Middlessnough. ANDM MERIBANCE CONTRINSMITTON Ent. Division.

AVON INSURANCE COMEDIATION First Division: West Ham v Swindon (2,0) (at Dogetharo & Red-Rugby Union Courage Class' Champtonipup National Laugus One: Gouckster v Laupster (7.45).

Other sports
some: Vacant Ghain super-middleweight the
costact. Sam Storey (Bedfast) v Dend Store (B-pada) for York Hall, Bedfast of Dend, Store (p-pada) for York Hall, Bedfast (Store), London).
BOALS: English Men's Championship (or Melect

ice hockey CHALLENGE MATCH (St Péttes, Auf): Austre 3 Grest Britain 3 Morges, Craston, Charol. NML: Philosolphia 2 Orawa 11 Cricago 2 Calgary 1 New Jersey 2 St Louis C Colorado 2 Proenix Rugby League

DAVIS CUP World Group quarter-finat: United Sertes 3 Nethertands 1. American Zoon Group one second round: Canada 5 Venezueia O; Chile 3 Aegoritma 2. Group Two second round: Colombia 5 Peru C; Pange ay 3 Ungary 1. Play-eff Cuba 4 Puero Roo 1; El Selvarior 2 Hajis 3. FAMILY GROLE MAGAZINE CUP (Hitton House telannt, South Caroline) Women's singless front-

Florida, Control Caroline, Women's singles finel M Mings, (Swit) is M Selec (US) 3-8 6-3 7-6. Estoral, OPEN Mee's singles first round: Claret (Sp) is A Gaudern (t) 3-8 6-3 6-2; Floridag (Aus) is A Vones (Rom) 4-6 6-2 6-2; Formary (Fr) is M-K Gardere (Ge) 7-5 -5 F Marrilla (Sp) by R Carrelore (Sp) 6-3 8-1.

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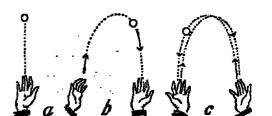


Fig. 6. The principles of Ball Juggling. ISBN is up to four-times quicker than an ordinary phone line. Call 37 Bushnessconnections on Freetone 0800 800 800.

الفات الاعل

The divine Dodger Rupert Cornwell recalls a great American sportsman, page 25

sport

Hoddle joins fan club Glenn Moore hears the England coach support Man Utd, page 27



150th GRAND NATIONAL: New Zealand's finest leads from start to finish in high class end to unhappy episode

Lord the master of a grand Monday

reports from Aintree

Only a performance of huge merit at Aintree yesterday could have expunged the memory of what had gone before, but then there was only one horse in the race. Lord Gyllene led from start to finish, won by 25 lengths and ensured there was at least one noble intervention in the 150th Grand National

The diminution in spectator numbers may have taken something from the occasion, but this was not a factor that struck Tony Dobbin as he pushed his nineyear-old mount further and further ahead on the run-in. "I thought it might not have been the same atmosphere for the race and it wasn't," the jockey said. "It was better."

Lord Gyllene is the product of an unlikely National factory as he was bred and reared on the grasslands of New Zealand. He was bought not out of a field, but rather out of a video box after his owner, Stan Clarke, watched film of the gelding. But then Clarke himself departs far from the norm.

The Staffordshire business man is a member of the Jockey Club who has built up a property company which recently announced pre-tax profits of £11.7m. He has travelled some way since he began his working career aged 11, ac-companying the local butcher on his horse and cart during the day and working in a chemist's at night. Yesterday it was his horse's opponents who looked as though they were pulling a carriage behind them, and 17 other gasping finishers who appeared in need of medication.

The winning team is completed by the trainer, Steve Brookshaw, a trainer well known in been training for just two years.

Brookshaw will tell you his family deserves to have their name on the scroll. In 1959, his uncle Tim should have won the National on Wyndburgh but his stirrup leathers snapped at

Leading the line: The eventual winner, Lord Gyllene (right), takes the field round the first bend for the second time in the Grand National yesterday

Photograph: Robert Hallam

Becher's Brook before he finished second to Oxo.

The omens did not look that portentous for Lord Gyllene just bunting and pointing circles but rather less of prominent figure in National Hunt racing. He has soon as the tape went up however. the field was chasing the horse in the green and white go faster stripes. The leader bounced along throughout with his ears pricked, the equine equivalent of clicking the heels in the air as you walk

down the pavement.

hoofprints were Suny Bay, who was tugged along into second place, and the poor Smith's Band, who died immediately after falling at the 20th. Straight Talk too will never be seen again after breaking a leg.

Dobbin's only problem came as the field passed the straight, when a loose horse tried to remove him from the racecourse. The man from Northern Ireland dared only to look over his shoulder in the closing stages and

by a pleasant myopia. "I didn't look back until half-way up the run-in and I didn't care how far ahead I was," he said "I wasn't going to stop riding him because he was idling out there."

A short time later he afforded himself a quick punch of the air and a quick pinch of his trusty conveyance's right ear, as the race was secured.

A grey and chill morning had dawned at Aintree under a gun metal sky. The ongoing po-

searched the entire 250-acre site. Policemen with metal detectors checked the bristling fences for devices (as if there was not enough peril inherent in the obstacles).

The police operation was so thorough that it soon became clear that customer comfort was a lesser priority behind ensuring the 150th Grand National was run as a defiant signal to those who had caused Saturday's

numbers of officers to shepherd the visitors, the sort of security ratio to which Reggie Kray has

become accustomed. Paul Stephenson, the assistant chief constable of Merseyside police, had, according to a press release, said: "Racegoers are going to experience a very high level of security and they are going to be searched when they come in. Everyone can be guaranteed that our No.1 priority is pubic [sic] safety." This went some way

of the frisking all had to endure at the entrances.

Water jets were thrown on to the course until mid-afternoon, changing the going from good to firm to good. This was enough to secure the participation of Charlie Brooks's Suny Bay, who ran only after his trainer and owner had walked the course. Over The Stream. as expected, was pulled out as he had become dehydrated during the confusion of Saturday.

Well after the 2pm Aintree had the feel of a al, and the cheers of yesterday film set before the arrival of the cast and crew. However, a sense of stubbornness in the face of the enemy and the free entrance

1 Lord Gyllene

3 Camelot Knight

4 Buckboard Bounce

and owned by Stan Clarke

Winner trained by Steve Brookshaw,

Go Ballistic started as the 7-1 favourite

2 Suny Bay

meant the official attendance eventually grew to an estimated 25,000, a warming figure in view of the fact that some enclosures

were closed to the public. The most voluble figure in the stands as the bay powered home was the man who pays the hotel bills at the horse's Preston Farm digs at Uffington near Shrewsbury. "I cheered and cheered and cheered and made a right fool of myself," Stan Clarke said. But Clarke was not the tool of this Grand Naut sent out a message to those who tried to damage the great event.

and pictures, page 26

(A Dobbin) 14-1

(J Osborne) 8-1

(C Llewellyn) 100-1

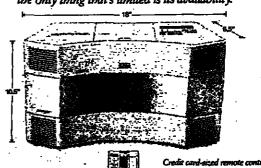
(P Carberry) 40-1

YOUR MONEY WENT: A GUIDE TO THE FINISHERS AND FAILURES 13th Turning Trix 25-1 1st LORD GYLLENE 14-1 14th Pink Gin 100-1 Dakyns Boy 100-1 2nd **SUNY BAY 8-1** 15th New Co 40-1 Nahthen Lad 14-1 **CAMELOT KNIGHT** 100-1 **10th Valiant Warrior** 50-1 **16th General Wolfe** 16-1 **BUCKBOARD BOUNCE** 40-1 11th Antonin 14-1 17th Evangelica 33-1 Master Oats 25-1 12th Northern Hide 66-1 Avro Anson 12-1 THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD **DEXTRA DOVE** 33-1 pulled BACK BAR 100-1 fell SPUFFINGTON 100-1

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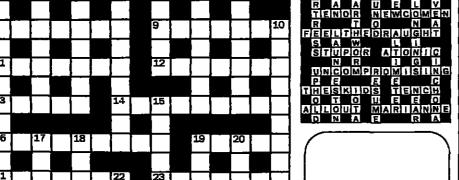
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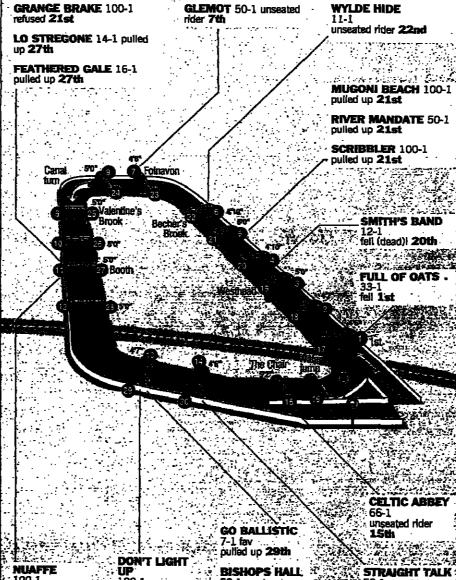
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- Elementary way of finding
- Upper-class doctor's anger ses offence (7) 9 Sweet producing a spot of gingivitis? (7)
 11 Writer visiting Jerusalem
- finds a place to stay (7) 12 Work to get a following round Virginia (7) 13 Provocative sailor rejected 2
- City worker (9) 16 Policeman has power in popular area (9) 19 What, in support of golfer,

with anger (5)

- makes one laugh (2-3) 21 Great Danes feature here as names in boats (7)
- 23 One subject to no charge has to spend time in cell Machine-minder? (7)
- 25 How to get naked ape? аrrived? (3-6,3) DOWN Shoot, in vicious act, government leaders (7)
- Yet liar could produce the truth? (7) 14 Flirt to irritate one Vatican 3 Done thing is to relax until morning (9) Understand Information
 - Technology would use many such (5) Timothy has to criticise one's percussion (7) Aim of Buddhist leaders going into revolutionary
- Cause of inflation to US money which Germans swallow (12) 10 Reportedly taste something not to put in mouth - paint mixer (7,5)
- Sticky glasses (9)
 Indie's flourishing, end of The Times will be announced later (4,3) Second half of frieze at German town depicts a
- prophet (7)
 19 US haulage firm did right in having folded (7) 20 Damage to old city produces unity (7) Empty enclosure in street



لفكذا من المذهبل

fell (dead). 14th